

Educational Supplement

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 14 1986 NUMBER 3672

FIRST PUBLISHED 1910 PRICE 65p

At this time of the year, many sixth-formers look forward with anxiety to interviews for admission to polytechnic or university. My own first experience of this ordeal was a disaster. In those pre-UCCA days, I applied to only two universities, King's College and University College, London. King's turned me down by post, but University College granted me an interview. At the age of 17, I confronted the famous Anglo-Saxon scholar, Professor Sisson.

"Are you interested in philology?" was his first question. I wondered whether to tell a fib and say "yes", but decided truth was more expedient. "I don't know what that word means, sir," I told him.

He gestured to an Oxford dictionary on the shelf behind me. Hoping desperately that the word began with "ph" not "f", I found the definition. I looked up at him, and there was silence. When I put the dictionary back on the shelf, he asked me for the definition.

After this unfortunate start, my nerve had gone and I said little. I recall that we discussed problems of carving letters on wood or stone. He asked me what difficulties I faced when I carved my initials on a desk. At my state schools, we just didn't do that sort of thing, for it was punishable by the cane. I looked blank, while he explained that straight lines are easier to carve than curves. He rejected me.

I was very fortunate that I could take Oxbridge scholarships in December before conscription into the army in February, so having been rejected by London I went to Cambridge instead. I regard myself as fortunate that I began my undergraduate career at the age of 21, and believe that all sixth-formers do well to take a year in work before their university or polytechnic courses.

After these experiences, I retain a strong prejudice that university interviews are unjust. This view was confirmed when I took part in interviews of applicants for admission to the English department at Hull. Four or five of us together would interview each student, and we often disagreed. The art of interviewing is a professional skill. Two interviewers need to see each student separ-



BRIAN COX

No second chance

'Selection depends on borderline decisions which bear no relation to later performance'

ately, and to record their valuation in writing before they meet together to reach agreement. Otherwise strong-minded lecturers win the day.

We made bad mistakes. An older man answered our questions with such inflexible dogmatism we became convinced he was unteachable. After we'd rejected him, he obtained a mature scholarship which in those days gave him the right to enter our department. Three years later we awarded him a first. At the interview his inflexibility was simply the result of nerves.

A pretty girl performed so brilliantly we almost clapped as she withdrew. She talked eloquently about her set books, and when questioned about her private reading referred enthusiastically to a wide range of literature.

When she turned up at Hull she proved the weakest student in her year. She'd been well-trained for interviews by her school, of course, but her real talent was for flirtation. She talked to strangers, particularly males, with easy animation, and she certainly made fools of us.

Parents are often forced to pay large travel expenses so their children can attend interviews, and I doubt whether this is justified. Many university admission officers would not agree with me. They would claim that they carry out interviews in a far more

professional manner than was usual 40 years ago when I suffered at London. They argue that in language subjects, for example, it's possible to assess a student's performance very quickly, and that a careful interviewer can often find out a great deal about motivation.

They make valid points, and really my objection to university selection procedures is more fundamental. In August this year, in order to keep within entry targets, selectors might find themselves accepting a student with BBC grades and rejecting one with BBD. There's no evidence that students with slightly lower grades at A level would perform less well as undergraduates. The system is unfair, and undoubtedly rejected students include some who would have been awarded at least an upper second class honours degree. The whole operation of interviews and selection depends on borderline decisions which bear no relation to later performance.

In my English department at Manchester, we only interview applicants with special problems or an unusual background. We like to talk to mature students because they often need our advice. We invite all our students to whom we make offers to an open day, and many university departments now operate this system. Sixth-formers appreciate the chance to survey the campus, to hear

about our courses, and to chat to those over a cup of tea without the pressure of knowing they are being evaluated.

For those who must face interviews, advice is appropriate. The best advice I can give is to consult as many teachers as possible, as friends who have been through the ordeal. At Hull I was amazed that sixth-formers were taken by surprise at obvious questions. Why did you choose this university? Why did you choose this department or this subject? What books do you enjoy reading outside the texts? Quite a few students would answer questions about personal opinions by replying "we liked..." or "we liked..." as if what was said in class bore little relation to their own thoughts.

Interviews are part of a selection procedure which is too rigid. We ought to encourage more students into higher education and to provide more opportunities for second chance. In Britain, only 15 per cent gain the minimum qualification for entry into first degree course, whereas in America over 50 per cent. The sooner we expect entry into higher education, the sooner shall we overcome the anomalies and injustices of our selection procedures.

NEXT WEEK

After Nottingham
James Meikle reports on the
aftermath of this weekend's pay and
conditions negotiations

In control of the purse strings
How Cambridgeshire schools have
reacted to managing their own
finances

THE TES BOOK AWARDS
The results of the fifteenth annual
competition for the Information
Book Awards, and of the inaugural
TES Schoolbook Award

Extra
Children's Books

Nick Baker reports on one effect of the heated debate on sex education

BBC scraps homosexual drama series

BBC Schools TV is to abandon a two-part drama for teenagers about homosexuality and bisexuality, which was to have been shown in the *Scene* series early next term.

Mates, filmed last year at a school in west London and on location on the south coast, has already been edited, prior to a screening originally scheduled for February.

It tells the story of two 17-year-old boys who run away from school and home and was described earlier in the year by its producer and director Mr Roger Tonge as "a romance".

It has no explicit scenes of homosexual activity, although the boys are shown kissing in episode 2, and the film ends implying that the boys will continue their relationship. Part of the story involves one of the boys rejecting a heterosexual relationship in favour of the homosexual one.

A BBC spokeswoman told *The TES*: "Since the *Scene* drama proposals dealing with homosexuality were discussed and agreed by the secondary programme committee of the School Broadcasting Council a year ago, there has been a heated public debate about sex education in schools. As a result, we believe it would now be difficult for many teachers to use these programmes in the manner intended."

While the BBC denies that the currently rocky relationship with the Government was a reason for axing the programmes, they agree that new legislation on sex education strongly influenced their decision, despite the fact that the new Education Act does not forbid discussion of homosexuality in the classroom.

It is known that BBC Radio School was planning to support the films (details of which have already been circulated to schools) with a phone-in

programme on homosexuality. Plans to give *Mates* an evening viewing slot were also being considered.

It is understood that Mrs Mary Whitehouse knew about the films as long ago as this summer, and wrote to the BBC about them. Mr Alasdair Milne, the director-general of the BBC, wrote back to Mrs Whitehouse defending the programme makers and assuring her that the subject would be dealt with responsibly.

Mr Leslie Stewart, who wrote the play in consultation with *Scene* producer-director Mr Roger Tonge, told *The TES*: "It's come as a bit of a shock. The idea of writing the play wasn't to make life awkward for teachers but to get people in a school environment to face up to the facts that homosexuality does exist among teenagers, does cause a lot of grief and can lead directly to suicide and massive unhappiness."

The idea was to make teachers and teenagers feel more comfortable about discussing it, and to make teenagers who are gay not feel so desperate about it."

In a TESMORI poll last week, a third of the teachers interviewed (34 per cent) said they believed homosexuality should be taught as an acceptable way of living while 24 per cent believed the opposite. Only 11 per cent thought it should not be covered at all — while 31 per cent did not give an opinion.

In an interview with *The TES* this week, Mrs Angela Rumbold, the minister responsible for steering the Education Bill — which included a reference to sex education — through the Commons, said she believed "it was not correct" to teach homosexuality as an acceptable way of life. Rumbold interview, page eight. Background to *Mates* page 34.



Standing in the shadow of Baker? A somber John Pearson, the employers' leader, waits for the start of Wednesday's pay talks at Acas with weary union leaders Doug McAvoy (left) of the NUT and Nigel de Gruchy of the NAS/UNW.

Fury over end of Burnham

by Barry Hugill and James Meikle

Plans to abolish teachers' pay negotiating machinery were formally announced in the Queen's speech on Wednesday — provoking an immediate outcry from union leaders.

The Government said it planned to scrap the Burnham Committee, set up in 1920, through legislation to repeal the Remuneration of Teachers' Act and to introduce new arrangements to negotiate teachers' pay and conditions.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, warned that the plan to scrap Burnham — and replace it with an interim advisory committee — would put teachers in the same category as workers at the government GCHQ intelligence centre with no "basic trade union rights".

The Queen's speech made no mention of what the new measures would be nor did it lay down a timetable for their introduction.

A Department of Education and Science spokesman explained that Mr Kenneth Baker was still hopeful that a negotiated settlement could be reached between teacher unions and local authority employers.

Within hours of the Government announcements, teachers' leaders and their employers took a significant stride towards a pay agreement to rival the package announced by Mr Kenneth Baker two weeks ago.

The teachers' panel voted by 17 to 11 in favour of accepting the local authorities' final offer as a basis for a pay agreement — and then went into further talks about conditions before ratifying any deal.

The new package is a 16.4 per cent deal over 18 months — the same as Mr

Baker's — but is still loaded towards the lower paid rather than headteachers and senior staff.

However, in a significant improvement on the employers' previous offer, it allows for a pay settlement in line with inflation next year and increases the number of teachers who would qualify for principal teacher status (and extra cash allowances) from 15 per cent to 20 per cent.

The package was steered through the teachers' panel when the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association sided with the NUT in backing the deal.

The Government intention is to set pay negotiations, pages 10 and 11

up an "interim committee to advise the Secretary of State" before establishing a permanent alternative to the Burnham Committee.

If an agreement on pay and conditions is not reached the interim committee will be given the power to impose a settlement and this could create constitutional problems for the Government.

At issue will be the legality of a Government imposing terms of employment on people whom it does not employ. A former permanent secretary at the DES, Sir William Pile, speaking on Channel 4 News, warned the Government that any attempt to impose a contract would be like "opening a can of worms".

More worrying for the Government was the reaction of Mr Philip Merriale, the Conservative chairman of the Association of the County Councils' education committee, who said he was

unhappy at the prospect of an interim advisory committee imposing a pay and conditions settlement.

"We would want to see the local authorities having an effective role in the negotiating process," he said.

Mr Doug McAvoy, deputy general secretary of the NUT, who is leading the union side during the Acas talks, said that the decision to scrap Burnham was further proof of the need for the unions to intensify their efforts to reach a negotiated settlement with the employers. Failure to do so would result in the end of free collective bargaining and the imposition of conditions of service that could be worse than those already existing, he said.

Planned legislation on copyright was dropped from the Queen's speech. The suggested legislation included plans to introduce a video licence fee which would allow schools to legally record TV programmes and new freedom to record on audio cassette at the cost of a levy on all blank tapes.

The government's decision to shelve the White Paper will be received with mixed feelings in the education world.

The Council for Educational Technology welcomed the possibility of greater access for schools to taped television programmes. But opponents such as the National Union of Teachers' technology committee said the licensing schemes for printed and broadcast materials would have been prohibitively expensive.

The Queen's speech also contained a Government commitment to force local authorities to tender contracts for the provision of school meals and the maintenance and cleaning of schools and colleges.

NOTICEBOARD

PEOPLE...

Mr Peter Burke has been appointed chief executive of the Southern Examinations Group. He was formerly deputy secretary to the Southern Regional Examinations Board.

Mr John Hart, deputy divisional education officer in Tower Hamlets, is to be divisional education officer for the Inner London Education Authority.

Mr Anne Docherty is to be chairwoman of the National Association of Educational Guidance Services. She was formerly deputy director of Network (Scotland) Ltd.

Mr Dick Jenkinson has been appointed part-time general secretary of the Community Education Association. He has previously worked in community education in Leicestershire, Leeds and Coventry.

Mr Robin Winch, head of Bellfields middle school, Guildford, is to be head of St Mary's primary school, Bridgewater, Somerset.

CONFERENCES...

November 15 National Association for Pastoral Care in Education London regional conference on 'What's new in pastoral care' for pastoral post-holders, tutors, heads of house or year and deputy heads, at Forest Hill School, Decres Road, London SE23. Speakers include Margaret Calster, HMI, Ann Peake, educational psychologist. Details from Martin Baker, Manoride School, Squires Lane, London N3 2AB.

November 22 National Association of Teacher Therapists and Teachers in Multi-disciplinary Settings conference on 'Lowerfield "world technique" and support groups at Isledon Teachers' Centre, London N4. Details from Gill Easteugh (01-979 6542).

December 1-19 International Spring Opportunities in FE and HE organized jointly by CET, FEU and NATFHE at Loughborough University of Technology. Details from Lesley McDonald, CET, 3 Devonshire Street, London W1N 2BA.

November-December Enfield College is running a series of two-hour first-aid courses as part of the Save a Life Campaign. Details from Mrs J Simpson, Enfield College, 73 Hertford Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 5HA.

November 24-28 Marketing further and higher education — principles and practice at the Ladbroke International Hotel, Leicester, organized by the Further Educational Staff College for staff in colleges, polytechnics and LEAs responsible for marketing any aspect of further and higher education. Details from Keith Scribbins, FESC, Blagdon, Bristol, BS18 6RG.

COURSES...

November 25-26 and 27-28 Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work workshops on mental handicap at Earmley Concourse, Chichester. The first will look at multi-professional training and the second at training

for joint planning of services. Details from Rosemary Ford, administrative officer, CCETSW, 4th Floor, Derbyshire House, St Chad's Street, London WC1.

December 3 Local Government Finance: an Oxford Polytechnic short course to update non-specialists on issues in local government finance. Speakers include David Barrell, John Deegan, Steve Hopkins and John Patrick. Details from Carolin Tidbury, Faculty Short Course Unit, Oxford Polytechnic, Headington, Oxford OX3 0BP.

December 5-7 The child with cerebral palsy in school — a course for teachers and educational advisers at Castle Priors College, Wallingford, Oxfordshire. Details from the college: 0491 37551.

November 15 International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language north west branch talk and workshop on Video materials in the ELT classroom by Sheila Llewellyn at Educare, Sandhill, Burnage Lane, Manchester. Details from Jenny Jewell, Central Manchester College, Openshaw Centre, Whitworth Street, Manchester.

November 22 General introduction to ballet — a Royal Ballet study day for teachers at the Royal Opera House. Details from Kate Castle, Royal Opera House Education Unit, Covent Garden, London WC2.

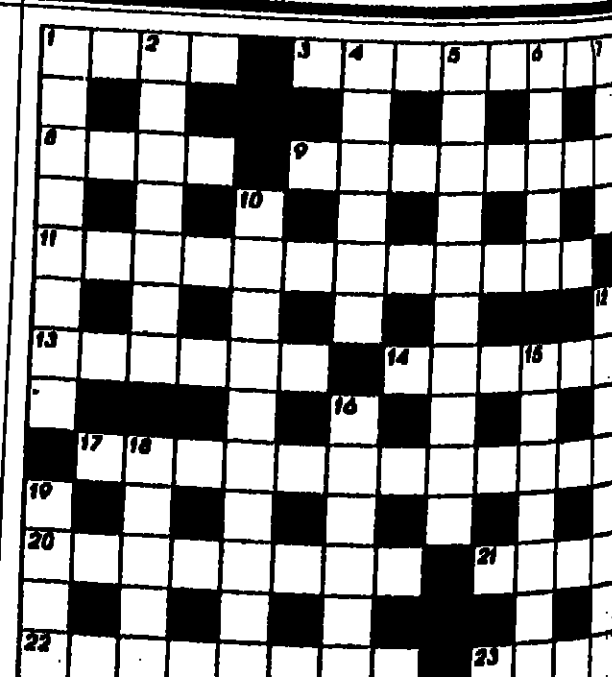
November 27 Education 1836-1986: Partnership and professionalism by Professor William Taylor in the Logan Hall, University of London Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1 at 5.30 pm. Admission free.

Microcomputers in primary schools The Interim Report on the use of microcomputers in primary schools is available from the Reading and Language Centre, Reading University School of Education, London Road, Reading, Berks RG1 5AQ, price £2 including postage.

Maths GCSE The Cardinal Wiseman School, Birmingham, has published a booklet outlining their limited school GCSE mathematics Mode 3 course, coursework only, approved by the Southern Examinations Group for examination in June 1988. Details of the scheme, which is divided into statistics, money management and general mathematics, are available from Cardinal Wiseman School, Old Oscott Hill, Birmingham B4 9SR, price £4.50, cheques to the Cardinal Wiseman School Fund.

The Modular curriculum An evaluation of the modular system at Ysgol Marys y Iwari, Abergale, in relation to its structure, assessment and social implications has been published by the school. It costs £2.50 and is available from this school. Abergale, Gwyn LL22 7HE.

No 279 CROSSWORD by Ruff



Across

1 She's not improved by the gulden touch (4)
3 Relating complicated involvement of two men and a woman (8)
5 Small serving of spuds, perhaps, given to a big star (4)
9 Pundit expression is important to the press (4-4)
11 Shakespeare's play, hence in the sound? (5, 7)
13 Might number clues wrongly (6)
14 Publicly wrong for counsel? (6)
17 A bit to drink? (4, 2, 6)
20 Start off on holiday (6)

Down

2 Fastener for a jumper (4)
4 A piano tested and given the OK (8)
6 Issue a period return (4)
8 A point contest for the loser (4-4)
10 A piano tested and given the OK (8)
12 Issue a period return (4)
14 A point contest for the loser (4-4)
16 A piano tested and given the OK (8)
18 Issue a period return (4)
20 A point contest for the loser (4-4)

Solutions to puzzle 278

1. BIRD
2. ZIP
3. TROUBLE
4. TROUBLE
5. TROUBLE
6. TROUBLE
7. TROUBLE
8. TROUBLE
9. TROUBLE
10. TROUBLE
11. TROUBLE
12. TROUBLE
13. TROUBLE
14. TROUBLE
15. TROUBLE
16. TROUBLE
17. TROUBLE
18. TROUBLE
19. TROUBLE
20. TROUBLE

Oxford wins book prize

Oxford University Press has won an unprecedented double-first this week by carrying off both the Senior and Junior TES Information Book Awards.

Peter Connolly has won £500 for his archaeological book *The Legend of the Young* and Terry Jennings £500 for his book *The Young Geographer Investigates Polar Regions*.

The first TES Schoolbook Award, also of £500, has been won by Adam Hart-Davis for his book *Scientific Eye*, published by Bell and Hyman.

This competition has been made possible with administrative help from the Educational Publishers Council and the Book Trust (formerly the National Book League).

Magnus Magnusson, who won the very first TES Information Book Award 15 years ago, presented the prizes yesterday in a ceremony at St John's Gate, London. Judges' reports on pages 28-29.

THIS WEEK

COMMENT PLATFORM 2
PRIMARY 4
SCHOOL TO WORK 4
OVERSEAS NEWS 16-17
LITERS 18-19
LITERS 18-19
REVIEW BOOKS/ARTS 21-22
RESOURCES/MEDIA 24-25
PERSONAL COLUMN 26-27
NOTES/CLIPPING 28-29
CLASSIFIED 45



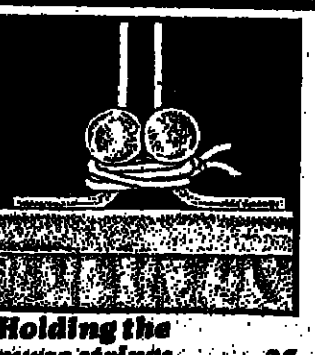
Compete with Labour



Destroying the town halls



English inquiry



Holding the purse strings



EXTRA: Children's books

The HMIs' original catch-all list of disparate

Teachers also now seem ready for change, and are keen to take up any in-service opportunities that are going. The teaching of reading and writing in many primary schools is in an unusually active state of development, with attempts to base the teaching of reading on a much wider and more interesting range

Mr Baker's new committee will only earn its keep if it addresses these issues, and gives new clarity and impetus to the long process of changing teaching methods in order to raise standards of English.

The only way to get through that lot is for someone to take a hold of the whole process and knock some sense into it. Few observers with the best interests of the education service at heart would dispute that Baker has much choice but to step into the Nottingham negotiations early this week. They had to be brought back to reality - never mind the immutable timetable of rate support grant, public spending decisions and Parliamentary

As we went to press, the bedraggled band from Nottingham seemed to be cobbling together a package on pay but conditions still looked more difficult. It remains to be seen whether Mr Baker will be prepared to negotiate, or whether the unions can deliver industrial action if there is no compromise. The Government's supporters in the shires are among those who would prefer a negotiated settlement to imposition by legislation, but either way Baker may now lot the protagonists stew for a bit, while he puts over a polished PR exposition of the money and time available. We may have to wait a bad winter in the schools.

But the most significant message to be gleaned from our reports on the fifteenth competition for *THE TEE* Information Book Awards (pages 28-29) concerns an ominous offshoot of the latter trend—the sponsored book. As Peggy Heeks explains in her report on the junior competition, an imaginative and unusual book called *Making Pencils* was narrowly beaten into second place thanks to a double-page spread which amounted to little more than a glorified pencil. The sensible and not unconvincing, recipe of following a process through to the end of the firm had here so thoroughly convinced the jury that it was not so much the firm as to leave it unnamed: not so much "Making Pencils" as "Making Pencils' Pencils".

The issue drops again, to the senior division, where the winning entry, *Senior Division*, by David Sear, also

"Good news; we gained a pupil yesterday. Following a tour of the school, the parents positively commented on the atmosphere and cleanliness of the school. They were impressed by the classwork going on. This contrasts with the fact that we lost two pupils last week following the same tour but at 2.30 p.m. The a.m. school is better than the p.m. school ... Can we do something about it *all together* and get more pupils on more seats?"

☐ Could you explain how we brainwash the troops to see 16 per cent over two years, plus compulsory wages, as an attractive "new deal" that the civilian population will be receiving at least two-thirds of the 16 per cent anyway *vide* national wage pay rises?

☐ I know you have a "code of honour"

Brent assurance

Miss Maureen McGoldrick, the Brent head at the centre of a race row, was given an assurance in the Court of Appeal in London on Monday that her job is safe.

Brent, whose QC gave the assur-

Miss Maureen McGoldrick, the Brent head at the centre of a race row, was given an assurance in the Court of Appeal in London on Monday that her job is safe.

New chairman

Sir Roy Harding, general secretary of the Society of Education Officers, takes over as chairman of the governing body of the Further Education Staff College tomorrow. Sir Roy, former chief education officer for Buckinghamshire, was appointed by Kenneth Baker, Education Secretary.

The research found that, in 56 per cent of cases, children with special needs were not identified by the school. The figures did not reflect significantly lower spending on schools that entered only for children with special needs.

- Greater parental involvement in assessing the educational needs of children was called for by the education authorities.

Only half of the 66 I.C.E.s who sent their guidelines to the CSIE explain their obligations – and the conditions attached to them – to ensure children are educated in ordinary schools.

Sue Surk

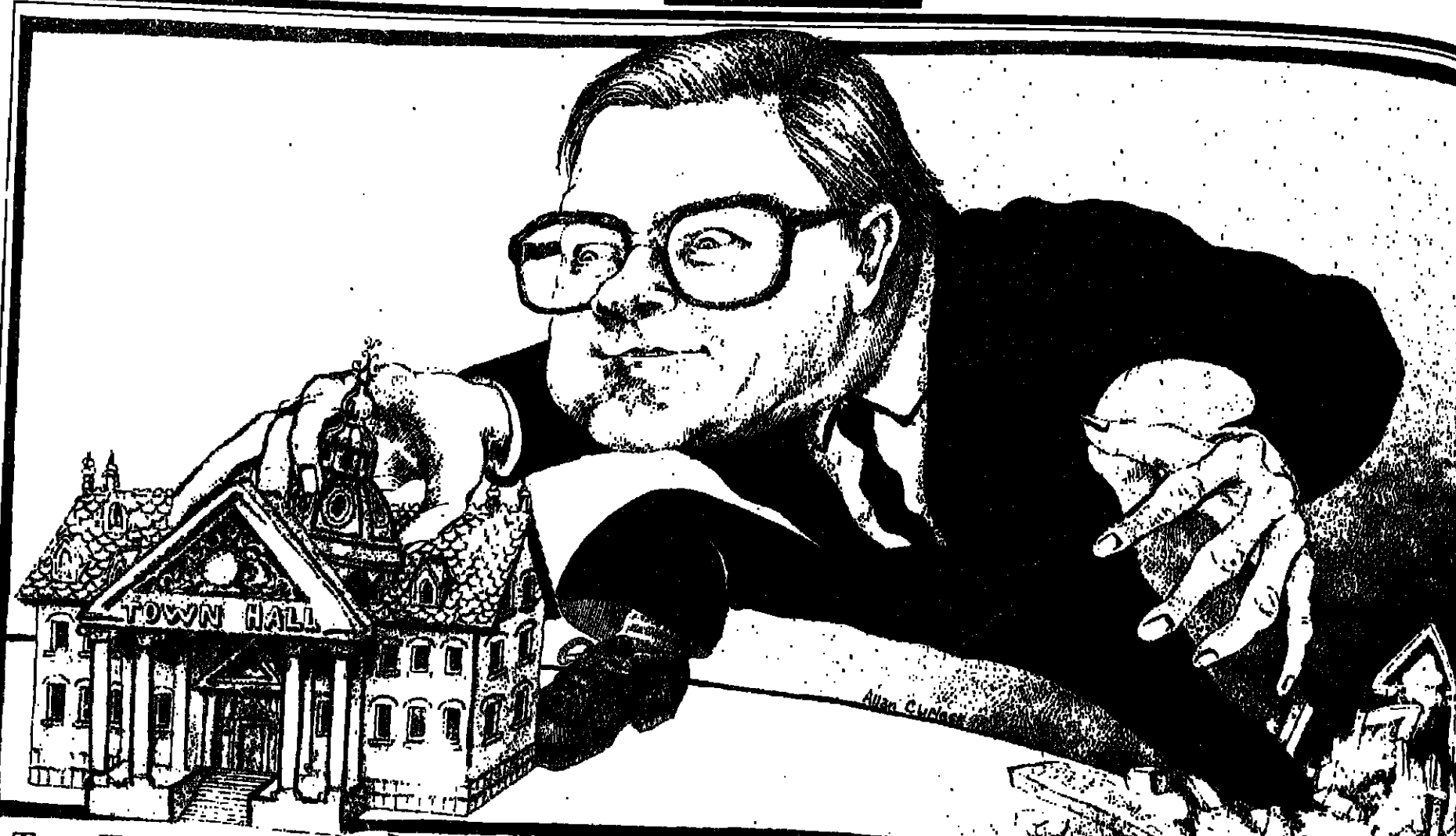


...the martyrdom of Miss Maureen McGoldrick by Brent Council.

Perhaps because of that, he made no complaint about bias. Although, when he looked at the programme, it would not have escaped him that Dr. Owe and Mr. Smith were once Labour Party members, and the other (accomplished) guest speaker, Lord Pitt, their socialist. With the chairman suggesting who made it the Labour

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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.



Tony Travers analyses the way in which funding decisions are being used to draw educational power inexorably into the hands of central government

Destruction of the town halls

Will teachers get their salary cheques direct from the Department of Education and Science within a few years? The local authorities' position as paymasters for the schools system in England and Wales is now under considerable pressure from the Government and from others outside the education system. In addition, local government finance is the subject of major reform plans outlined in the recent Green Paper "Paying for Local Government".

The current effort by Kenneth Baker to impose a pay settlement on teachers is (and must be intended to be) a threat to the entire negotiating machinery which has dealt with teachers' pay and conditions for many years. But if the Secretary of State's efforts are seen alongside other government interests and policies, a clear pattern emerges.

The control of schools and colleges is gradually shifting from town halls to Whitehall by means of changes in the financing of institutions. The short-

term reasons for the Government's current interest in imposing a pay settlement on teachers may be different to the reasons for introducing education support grants (ESGs). But the longer-term shifts in attitude with central government towards the education system and from growing concern that local government is no longer fit or able to provide an appropriate education system.

There are a number of longer-term reasons for this change in central government's attitudes, some of them financial and others not. Non-financial reasons include changes in national and local politics, leading to much wider political differences between the Government and a number of individual local authorities than was the case in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. Better access to information and broader scope of the national media have made it far easier for those at the centre (MPs, civil servants, journalists and academics) to comment on local matters. The most significant reasons to change attitudes towards central control have been the collapse of local government finance and the efforts of successive governments to cut local spending.

Local government finance is a mess, following decades during which rates have been allowed to become badly out-of-date, and when the Rate Support Grant (RSG) system has increasingly been used for new and complex purposes. As education makes up about half of all local authority spending, the degeneration of the system of local finance has inevitably threatened the funding of the service.

The local government funding system has gone unreformed during a decade in which successive governments have attempted to cut or level off local spending, following years of growth. Although some authorities have chosen to ignore government demands for cuts, others have managed to make large real reductions in spending. In the past two or three years, MPs in all parties have become alarmed at the fall in spending on capital, books, equipment and, in some cases, in general provision.

Cuts in services (whether real or imagined) have led to pressure on the Government to "do something" about areas where provision has been reduced. Reports by Her Majesty's In-

Growth in specific grants (£m)					
Education and Science	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86 (Est)	1986-87 (Plan)	1987-88 (Plan)
In-service teacher training Education Support Grant	5.1	10.2	17.5	21.0	114.0
Employment Technical & Vocational Education Initiative TVEI-related in-service training scheme	6.7	26.6	31.4	40.9	58.4
Work-related non-advanced FE Industrial Language Training Service	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.35
Capital grants for YTS accommodation	7.98	3.4	2.3	0.5	—

(Source: Second Report from the Education, Science and Arts Committee, Session 1986-88, HC Paper 361, Table 4, pages xi-xiii; Figures for DE in 1987-88 are for 1986 Public Expenditure White Paper)

spectorate have backed the notion that many, or all, authorities had problems because of lack of spending. In addition, in the more politically-charged atmosphere of recent years, the Government has come under pressure from its own supporters to speed through some of the more radical policies which they see as essential.

The growth of resources for the Manpower Services Commission and the huge increase in specific grants funded by central government are evidence of the desire of ministers to take control of the system of local finance and to make changes to education and training. The MSC's spending has increased from £335 million in 1981-82 to £1,820 million in 1986-87 (an increase of 95 per cent) at a time when local authorities' current spending on education rose by just 34 per cent in cash. The growth in Department of Education and Science grants in recent years is charted above.

From almost nowhere, specific grants have grown to nearly £200 million in education and almost the same level for Department of Employment grants to local authorities. The Government has used its new powers to make specific grants for a wide range of purposes. Many grants make clear the Government's interest in specific areas such as mathematics, technical

education and the misuse of drugs, though the major new specific grants for in-service training result from its long-held concerns about the quality of teacher education.

Specific grants generally work in one of two ways. Under the first method, the Government publishes a circular listing each area (for example, "the provision of services to support parents in the teaching of children under five with special educational needs") for which grants may be paid and the total amount of government support available. With the second method, the Government publishes a circular with "indicative totals" of spending for each authority (for example, for in-service teacher training), with sub-heads of allocation for priorities of different kinds. Authorities may then bid for support for spending (generally new activities) which falls within one of the Government's chosen areas or up to the indicated total. All approved spending will receive specific grant of 70 per cent (50 per cent in some cases).

Thus, authorities receive grant only if they spend in ways which correspond with Government priorities. Although it is open to authorities not to make bids, this would be financially unsound given the relatively large sums involved. Three new areas of provision are to be supported in 1987-88 (books and equipment for GCSE; development of use of spoken word by pupils

aged 5 to 16; and projects to promote social responsibility among young people), while some areas which have been supported in 1985-86 and 1986-87 will be given new grants in 1987-88. Grants will be made in 1987-88 to wards CISE books and equipment.

Many of the present ESGs are Government concern, though they amount to small sums. For example, new ESG for "action" in schools to combat the misuse of drugs, supporting up to £2 million in England in 1986-87. This sum of money works out at about £445 per secondary school, about 1/20 of a teacher. However, the existence of specific grants allows ministers to explain to Parliament that central government is taking action on a number of matters of common concern.

The DES (and the MSC) are gradually extending their control over local education authority spending in some cases for relatively small amounts but elsewhere for items of great concern. The possibility that the whole of education could be funded separately from the rest of local government services has been considered (in public) as recently as a 1981 Green Paper on "Alternatives to Domestic Rates". The removal of teachers' salaries from local authority control has also been considered, and must be more than now than ever before. Because the whole future of local authority finance is now being reviewed, the removal of part of all local education funding to the centre is possible within a relatively short period.

Two new developments also point to greater central control. First, there has been regular press speculation that the Government wishes to set up an urban development corporation to find out of local government hands the inner city. Secondly, the creation of City Technical Colleges, funded by central government, would bring local authorities.

What now appears certain is that education in England and Wales is moving inexorably towards greater central control. Major areas of provision, teachers' salaries or in a major way, are being moved to the Government's central agency. The time when local education authorities may not be far off.

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Royal flush

Teachers at Banbridge Academy, County Down, preparing for a half-day strike last Thursday afternoon were warned to expect a royal visitor at the school that morning. The Army arrived, a ring of steel duly formed, and the Duke of Kent flew in by helicopter. After the inspection, he thanked the head and suggested that the school could be closed for the rest of the day to mark the special occasion. It is not clear if the duke knew that some pupils were already set to enjoy the privilege of missed lessons. But now the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers wonders if its members walked out on union instructions or by royal appointment. Will the education authority dock pay if teachers argue the latter?

Rumboldly going on

The recent Tertiary Colleges Association conference in Cardiff was an occasion when the past caught up with Mrs Angela Rumbold, the Education Minister. Not only did she have to explain an unfortunate comment in the media which recently labelled her "an opponent of tertiary colleges" but she also admitted having had enough of education by 1983 and saying: "I never wanted to become a minister for education." "Oh well," she said, after a moment's thought. "Beggars can't be choosers."

Harris polled

Did the Labour delegates at the Association of Metropolitan Authorities education conference in Birmingham this weekend lose their stomach for a fight? Or were they in no mood to support their colleagues from Bristol over the thorny issue of race equality in education, and risk yet more lurid headlines in the *Daily Mail*? When time was running out, Steve Harris, Alliance chairman of Kingston-upon-Thames education committee, tried to make sure they discussed a broad motion on combating institutional racism in the education service because of its current topicality. But the Labour delegates were curiously reluctant to debate this particular hot potato and voted against bringing it forward, with the result that everybody rushed off home before the issue could be raised. Mr Harris looked a trifle disappointed.

Parsing through

Zapl A rare three letter non-Anglo-Saxon word which, according to the editor of the four-volume supplement to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, has 16 meanings. He should know, for Dr Bob Burchfield has been working on these since 1987. He told the Paternoster Society (a publishers and printers' club) recently that the word should move with the times and they should think too hardily of the man who spelt his initials as in him. But he bemoaned the fact that British schoolchildren no longer have any decent grounding in English grammar. Although he does not advocate a return to strict teaching of parsing, he said: "At least teachers should help the poor little beasts to understand that English is not put together by accident. They should know about subjects, verbs, adjectives and prepositions." But he confessed to a falling-out with his next work on English grammar and he has to get on with the bare infinitive.

Two new developments also point to greater central control. First, there has been regular press speculation that the Government wishes to set up an urban development corporation to find out of local government hands the inner city. Secondly, the creation of City Technical Colleges, funded by central government, would bring local authorities.

What now appears certain is that education in England and Wales is moving inexorably towards greater central control. Major areas of provision, teachers' salaries or in a major way, are being moved to the Government's central agency. The time when local education authorities may not be far off.

Acronym

Bert Lodge reports on the growing rehabilitation of competitiveness on the playing field

Labour speaks up for sporting strife

Every party and politician knows the maxim: "If a bandwagon rolls into town, make sure you are seen on it." This week it was the turn of Labour, scouting mileage in the recent public concern over the decline in school sport, and well aware of a matter which would disturb the innate conservatism of many of its traditional supporters.

So the organizers proudly announced Monday's seminar as the first on school sport by any party, well aware that for many a week now a high-powered one has been arranged for later this month between the Departments of Education and the Environment.

Mr Giles Radice, the Opposition education spokesman, ran his colours up the mast in the first five minutes, declaring: "The prosperity of British sport depends to a considerable extent on the health of sport in schools."

Mr Denis Howell, MP, the former sports minister who goes around saying the same thing much more robustly, nodded his agreement. From the representatives of sports governing bodies, teacher unions and local authorities there was no dissent. But Mr Bernard Wiltshire, the deputy leader of the Inner London Education Authority - which has been accused of minimizing competitive sport - hedged his position. While directly rejecting the accusation against the LEA as "pure propaganda", he questioned sporting activity which made the less-talented feel failures and firmly placed competitive sport outside school hours.

He also reflected on the need to review the whole nature of physical education, bringing in body care and nutrition. The cognate recognized the plan for health-related fitness, the new philosophy in the gym which challenges the traditional team sport-dominated curriculum and has been adopted already by much of the PE profession.

Mr Howell's response was typically forthright: "Life is a competitive business and when your pupils leave school they are going into a competitive world. You will be failing your pupils if you fail to prepare them for that situation."

He described as "absolute lunacy" the practice of selling off school playing fields - no longer required because of falling rolls - without taking into account how useful they could be for the young unemployed.

He said that relationships between the national governing bodies of sport and their school counterparts were not all they should be. "Some school governing bodies are not even represented on the national one," he complained.

Mr Emlyn Jones, a former director-general of the Sports Council, said that in his time aiding school governing bodies was regarded as part of its job.

He added: "If you have 40 acres, which by mid-winter are like paddy fields, then by all means sell off 10 acres and with the money pay for the remaining land to be drained."

"But that's not what happens. Instead, the revenue goes into the local



Under pressure: team games

authority's general fund and it never comes back to sport."

Mr Jones regretted the high level of qualifications now demanded of study, interest or sex the opportunity to experience the benefits of a balanced physical education programme "which would normally include involvement in a wide range of competitive sports."

The statement drew immediate criticism from the Central Council for Physical Recreation.

The council's senior technical officer, Mr Nigel Hook, said: "Sports governing bodies are anxious that schoolchildren are given the chance to compete and strive for excellence instead of being given a smattering of mediocre all-rounders."

"There's a real worry among governing bodies that our major team games are on the decline in state schools and are becoming the heritage exclusively of the independent system."

PE teachers reject blame for lost glory

Britain's physical education teachers have refuted the accusation that they are weakening the country's prowess at international level by encouraging less competition in school sports.

The Physical Education Association, their professional body, says schools should not be regarded as nurseries to cultivate expert games players.

It finds little evidence to support the view that the international standing of British sport has been jeopardized by recent trends in PE teaching.

"On the contrary, the executive committee believes that the standard of Great Britain's school and youth teams at international level in most sports has never been higher," claims the association.

The PEA also backs the philosophy of giving all pupils, regardless of ability, interest or sex the opportunity to experience the benefits of a balanced physical education programme "which would normally include involvement in a wide range of competitive sports."

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Mechanical maths skills 'no longer needed'

by Julia Hagedorn

Children no longer need to be taught the mechanical skills of addition, subtraction, multiplication and long division, according to a new report on primary mathematics.

Primary mathematics today and tomorrow is the outcome of a six-month project funded by the School Curriculum Development Committee. The project's brief was to survey the state of curriculum development and make proposals for a substantial national curriculum project.

Its major finding is that a totally new approach to maths teaching is needed if children are to acquire the flexibility they will need in the society of the future.

New technology - specifically the availability of computers and calculators - is advancing rapidly and must have considerable implications for primary maths, the author of the report, Miss Hilary Shuard, says. "These trends raise considerable questions about the relative roles of pencil and paper methods of calculation and calculator methods in the primary school."

She emphasizes that although children will no longer need to learn the old skills of addition and subtraction, they will still have to develop methods of understanding and working out the

concepts behind number and place values.

For many years to come, children will still need to develop their mathematical concepts through counting real things, measuring, weighing, making shapes and many other activities where there is no substitute for the real experience.

The report sets out the kind of model Miss Shuard would like to see in a primary maths curriculum.

General strategies for problem solving and investigation form an important part of children's mathematical education, she says. Another important feature is the constant interplay between situations found in the children's environment and the mathematical ideas they are learning.

Miss Shuard warns that teachers will need in-service training if they are successfully to encourage children to discuss mathematical ideas, carry out practical work and problem solving. Teachers, she says, as well as society at large, often have negative attitudes towards maths which inhibit their willingness to experiment.

Primary mathematics today and tomorrow, Longman, £5.95, from Longman Resources Unit, 62 Halford Road, Layerthorpe, York YO3 7XQ.



Opening chapter: children's author Lorraine Shueon and a young helper perform the ribbon-cutting ceremony at a day of festivities held to launch a new bookshop at an inner London primary school. The bookshop will be run by parents, students and staff from the Nunhead community education centre which shares its site with Peckham Rye primary.

Integrated school wins state backing

by Carmel McQuinn

One of Northern Ireland's first integrated primary schools is to be accepted into the state system.

After four terms, Hazelwood primary in north Belfast has grown from 134 pupils and its waiting list extends to 1990.

It will be the province's first integrated primary school for Catholic Protestants. Lagan College, a voluntary all-ability school, qualified for a state grant in 1984 and is now an over-subscribed secondary in the fast board area.

The Department of Education will take effect from January backdating to September in the negotiation, in view of the £8,000 month costs which have been met by the Belfast Charitable Trust for integrated education.

Two other integrated schools opened in 1985, Hazelwood secondary school and Forge primary, south Belfast, both plan to apply for state aid at the end of the academic year.

Seasonal offering

Primary schoolteachers in Solihull have compiled a book of ideas, games and worksheets for use in the classroom entitled *Images of Christmas*.

It is available, price £3 plus 50p p&p per copy, from Mrs Sheila Newton, Inspector, (Gifted/Abled Children), Education Department, Council House, Solihull, West Midlands B91 3QU.

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Undeveloped ideas on the developing world

China, the country, is confused with plates, cups and saucers in the eyes of some 6 to 14-year-olds. Others think the Third World is how the world would be after a nuclear war.

In the first of a series of pilot studies being carried out by the Oxford Development Education Unit, 278 children across England were asked two questions: what was their immediate response to the words Africa, China, Ethiopia, India, Jamaica, South America, the Third World, and the West Indies, and where they had got their ideas from.

The children, in three age groups of 6, 10 and 14, displayed a disappointingly stereotyped and negative attitude towards developing countries - with the exception of Jamaica which was seen as having "sun", "exotic fruit" and "colourful clothes".

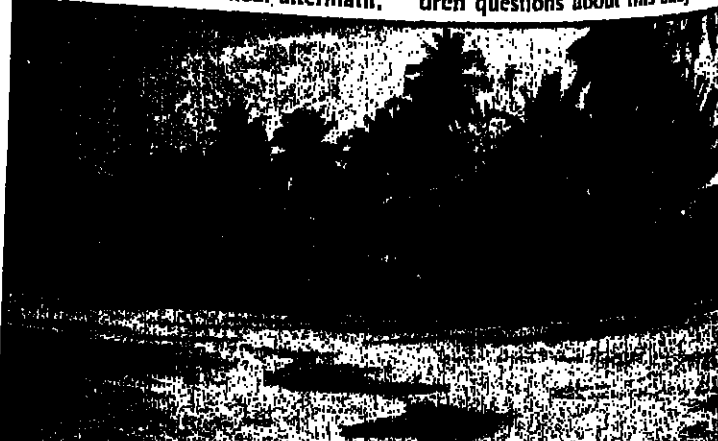
The Third World, when it was not seen as part of the nuclear aftermath,

was judged to be something to do with outer space or a fantasy world.

The West Indies also triggered some odd responses with one boy confusing it with both children mentioned starving children, mud huts and tribes.

It seems that such negativity is all the fault of the media, especially television. Of all the children, 51 per cent said they had got their ideas from television, and 17 per cent from papers and magazines. Only 12 per cent had general information from school, showing either that schools do not teach about the developing countries, or that children do not listen when they do.

"Young people form opinions and images at a variety of levels," says Mr Og Thomas of the unit. "The pilot study looked at the knee-jerk responses and their sources. We're now looking at other ways of asking children questions about this subject."



Jamaica: the only developing country that pupils had a positive attitude towards

Primary Index

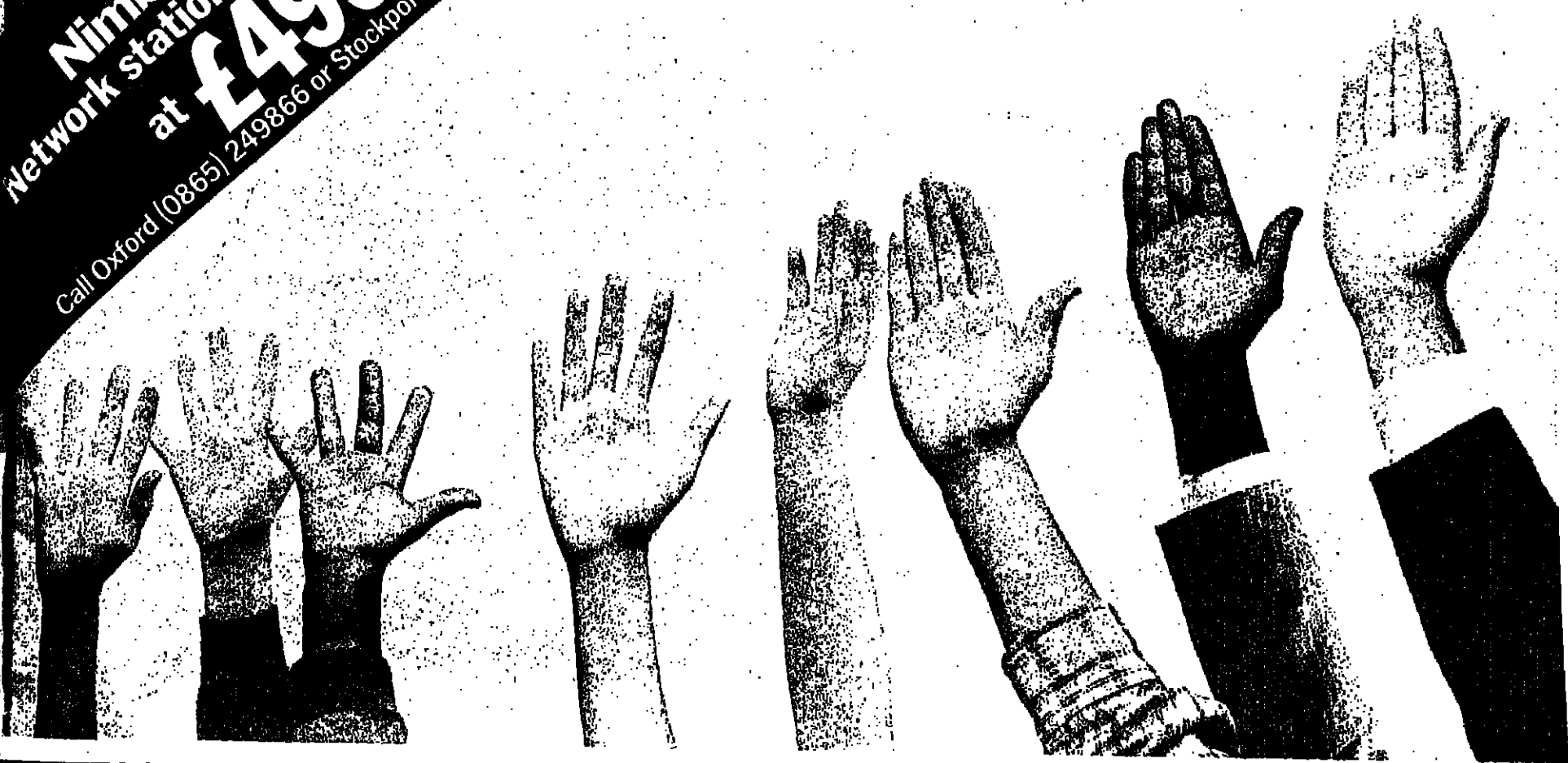
Pre-school exams	20
Female chairlift in the nursery	22
TES book awards	28, 29
Information book review	30
TV winter film festival	35
London Film Festival	36

High/Scope course

The first introductory course on High/Scope to be organized in a British college of higher education will take place at Rolfe College in Exmouth next January. High/Scope, which originated in the United States, is a pre-school programme that asks children to plan their own work and make their own decisions.

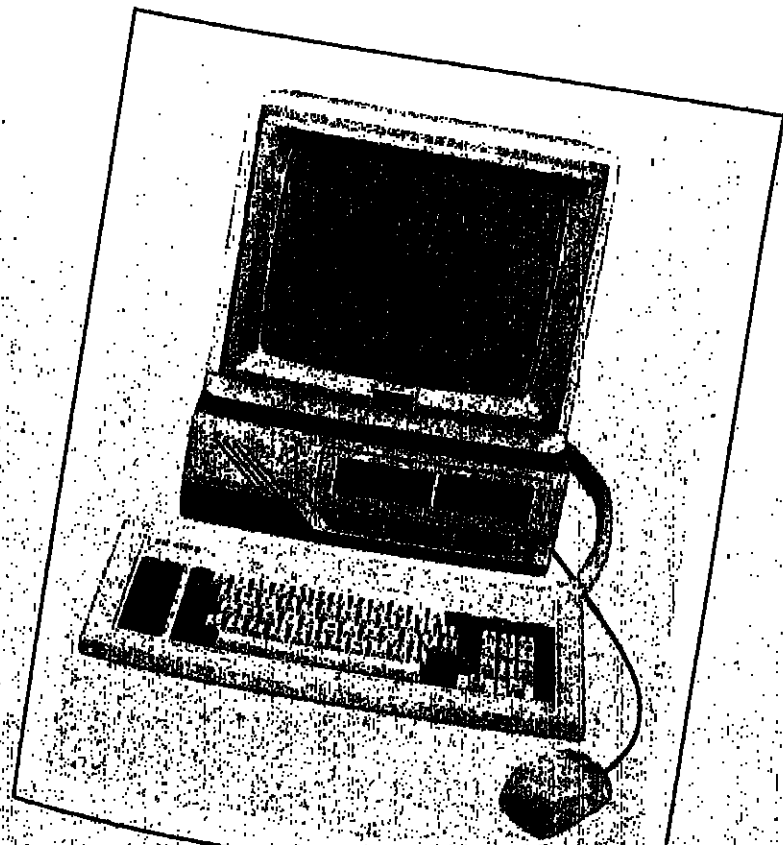
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Mrs Rumbold: "To teach homosexuality as being an acceptable way of life is not correct"

Barry Hugill talks to Angela Rumbold, Minister of State for Education, in the wake of last week's TES/MORI poll on teachers' attitudes towards sex education

Marginally liberal Angela

Barry Hugill: Minister, you have just introduced an Act giving the power to control sex education to the governors. But a large majority of teachers, some 60 per cent, say it is not the governors who should be deciding what's taught in sex education but parents, preferably in consultation with teachers. How do you react to that?

Angela Rumbold: That really does indicate that there isn't a full understanding of what we have just done in the Act. The Act increases quite substantially the number of parents on governing bodies and it also provides for an annual parents' meeting where the school curriculum, and particularly matters like sex education, will be discussed.

That annual meeting will have to decide what is suitable for teaching in schools.

So the teachers are agreeing with what we have said in the Act. And teachers themselves, of course, will also have a very strong say within the terms of the Act as to what is going to be done about sex education in schools, because they will advise the governors and will also be represented on the governing body.

I would imagine it doesn't surprise you that only 16 per cent of teachers think sex education has anything to do with the local education authorities?

No, it doesn't surprise me at all because I think most teachers, and most people, would agree that there is a very important role for schools in sex education.

Fifty-nine per cent of teachers believe that parents should have the right of withdrawing their children from sex lessons, although they should not have the right. Have you any comment?

In order to protect teachers from having parents withdraw their children from absolutely every subject, we had to be firm on that point. Sex education enters into a range of subjects. It's not something that is just confined to a lesson a week.

Sex education includes English and I don't believe there is a single teacher in the country who would want the parents to have the right to object to English on the grounds that sex education was mentioned.

Do you have any views as to how sex education should be taught?

I don't think I feel particularly strongly about it. With my own children it was taught gradually. I think it is something that comes up in social and general studies because children will ask questions which have to be answered.

Questions about sex must be answered factually and sensitively by teachers.

That leads us directly into the most controversial finding of the survey - that while 86 per cent of teachers fully accept that sex education should be taught in the context of family life, 34 per cent actually say that homosexuality is an acceptable lifestyle and that it should be taught as such.

Yes - well, I think that's the point at which I would part company with those people. Because I believe that, while it is perfectly reasonable to expect that teachers should answer questions from young people about homosexuality, to teach it as being an acceptable way of life is not correct - particularly to

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it is a question to be raised at the annual meeting of parents to find out whether or not the general body of parents are happy with that kind of answer being given to a child within the school. This is quite a powerful weapon of control over unconventional views being expressed to children.

What if the governing body of a particular school said that's fine by us - we hold the view that homosexuality is an acceptable way of life. Would they be in conflict with the law?

They could be in conflict with the law, but I think it's very unlikely. If it were to happen, then I think the legal position would have to be pointed out by the headteacher.

But we live in a free society and our laws are designed to allow adults to behave within a framework which allows homosexuality so long as it is clearly understood that this is something which is between consenting adults and not something which should be suggested to children as acceptable.

One can do no more than say that I hope the law will prevail. I feel very confident that it will.

The great majority of teachers do not believe that parents do anything like an adequate job of teaching their children about sex.

That, I think, is probably a fair comment by the teachers and it is for this very reason that we were anxious to ensure that there was fair coverage of sex education within the school curriculum.

We recognize that not all parents are quite up to the task. Some find it embarrassing, some just don't even think about it, others do not very expertly and produce the wrong reaction from their children. It's often context of the school, to explain these matters very simply and very straightforwardly in a factual manner.

It is much easier for a child to learn that way rather than the embarrassment of coming to talk to one's parents.

Seventy-nine per cent favour personal counselling on sexual problems for pupils in secondary schools. That's a very sensible approach, isn't it?

If a young person has a problem, it's important that the people who are counselling have some expertise. I would hope that the normal practice would be to go to the teachers responsible for pastoral care. I hope that any teacher who is approached would say: "Well, you had better go to X or Y" - the teacher with pastoral responsibility.

How did you first learn about sex? I learnt quite a bit from my mother - and a lot from classes at school.

You had sex education at your school? As part of biology but also as part of general discussion about society. We talked about marriage and that sort of thing. In my days, homosexuality was still illegal - so we didn't discuss that.

Teachers union leaders said at the time that Sir Keith would have preferred a committee of his own nomination. "The Government is being glib" in pretending the problem of staff shortage is confined to subjects such as maths, physics and craft, design and technology, says the union, which notes that there are also shortages in chemistry, business studies, home economics and religious education. "In some areas, such as London, schools (especially primary) are finding it difficult to recruit teachers at all," the NUT points out.

In its response to a DES consultative paper on the problem the union comments that the situation is steadily deteriorating and will continue to do so. Only 3,200 students out of 73,000 graduating this summer opted for teacher training.

The union says that even the Government accepts that falling pupil numbers in secondary schools will be of no appreciable help because so many teachers of shortage subjects are now leaving the profession in mid-career. A further worry is that school rolls will start to rise again in the early 1990s, just as the number of 20 to 24-year-olds reaches its lowest point.

The problem is compounded by the fact that many of this age group - the group from which new teachers are usually found - will themselves have experienced contraction and cuts in their school careers and will have suffered from the current crisis of teacher shortages.

The union calls the new £1,200 bursaries for graduates in shortage subjects who go in for teaching "divisive and unfair". Furthermore, they will not help to retain recruits once they have qualified.

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framework in which we have taken care of the worries surrounding sex education in as reasonable and as sensible way as we can.

We have not given in to the extremists at one end of the spectrum or the other, and we have tried to choose a sensible middle road which says that a combination of parental aspirations and professional teachers doing what they would normally do in any event. What is the latest position on Peter Bruhl's list of books that he wants banned?

We have no power within the DES to tell authorities what they may or may not do. But we have issued quite strong advice to the Inner London Education Authority, saying that the most famous one, *Jennyfer Lives with Eve* and *Martin*, really isn't a very suitable publication.

If you read it, as we have done, it's quite offensive. But of course, Mrs Morrell has said that it is not a matter for her, that it is a matter for individual headteachers' discretion. That is a bit of a let-out for her because most headteachers, I would suspect, would not want it on their shelves. But then there will be one or two who have proclivities in that direction who think it's all right.

Is it likely, do you think, given that people like Mr Bruhl are producing lists of materials that they find offensive, that the minister might feel it necessary to actually publish his own black list?

I don't know whether Kenneth Baker is thinking of that or not. What we are trying to do is to appeal to people's common sense. You wouldn't, I don't think, recommend as reading in your average secondary school some magazines that are on the newsstands staff. But there is nothing you can do to prevent young people going and buying them.

I hope that we can rely on the common sense and decency and professionalism of heads and teachers in schools not even to wish to have the sort of stuff on the fiction shelves that doesn't add anything to the total of knowledge.

Are you confident that you will be able to rely on the common sense of teachers?

I will always remain confident of the common sense of teachers.

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because it can knock on the head some of the misapprehension youngsters can pick up either in the playground or from literature. And that is one very good reason why we were anxious not to have parental withdrawal, because you would have had the individual child taken out of the school immediately going to other children and saying "Now, what did they tell you?" And who knows what, answer they would get.

On balance, do you personally approve or disapprove of sex before marriage? I can't say I have actually thought about the matter very much. I suppose it became the norm once girls felt secure in being able to prevent pregnancy before marriage. There is a different dimension to it now because of sexually transmitted diseases.

Aids, I suppose I have always had a marginally liberal attitude to these matters.

The newspapers have been full of sex education in the last three or four months. Do you think that's the end of the matter?

I do not think there is going to be more on this. I hope that we have set a

framework in which we have taken care of the worries surrounding sex education in as reasonable and as sensible way as we can.

We have not given in to the extremists at one end of the spectrum or the other, and we have tried to choose a sensible middle road which says that a combination of parental aspirations and professional teachers doing what they would normally do in any event. What is the latest position on Peter Bruhl's list of books that he wants banned?

We have no power within the DES to tell authorities what they may or may not do. But we have issued quite strong advice to the Inner London Education Authority, saying that the most famous one, *Jennyfer Lives with Eve* and *Martin*, really isn't a very suitable publication.

If you read it, as we have done, it's quite offensive. But of course, Mrs Morrell has said that it is not a matter for her, that it is a matter for individual headteachers' discretion. That is a bit of a let-out for her because most headteachers, I would suspect, would not want it on their shelves. But then there will be one or two who have proclivities in that direction who think it's all right.

Is it likely, do you think, given that people like Mr Bruhl are producing lists of materials that they find offensive, that the minister might feel it necessary to actually publish his own black list?

I don't know whether Kenneth Baker is thinking of that or not. What we are trying to do is to appeal to people's common sense. You wouldn't, I don't think, recommend as reading in your average secondary school some magazines that are on the newsstands staff. But there is nothing you can do to prevent young people going and buying them.

I hope that we can rely on the common sense and decency and professionalism of heads and teachers in schools not even to wish to have the sort of stuff on the fiction shelves that doesn't add anything to the total of knowledge.

Are you confident that you will be able to rely on the common sense of teachers?

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Jeremy Sutcliffe on how student award rules penalize overseas Britons

MoD man's son denied grant

An education officer based with the British Army in West Germany is claiming maladministration against Hereford and Worcester education authority over its refusal to give his son a grant to attend university.

The dispute, which is now in the hands of the local government Ombudsman, could affect thousands of service and civilian families employed by the Ministry of Defence and living overseas, who want their children to go on to higher education.

Centres on the guidelines issued by the Department of Education and Science on eligibility for awards of children of parents working overseas. To qualify for a grant, a student

must have been living in Britain for at least three years. If parents are employed abroad temporarily, their children can be treated in the same way.

In that case it is up to the local authority to decide whether the parents working abroad are there temporarily, and whether their children are eligible for discretionary grants.

Mr Thomas Neilson-Marsh, an in-service training officer for the Service Children's Education Authority in West Germany, applied for a grant for his son, Stuart, a former pupil at the Royal Grammar School in Worcester, but was refused. The I.e.s. said he did not qualify under the DES eligibility guidelines.

Mr Neilson-Marsh's complaint to the Ombudsman is due to be considered at a special awards sub-committee meeting shortly.

Meanwhile, Stuart has begun a BSc honours chemistry course at Cardiff University and his father expects to receive a bill of about £400 for his first term's fees.

Although Mr Neilson-Marsh has lived abroad for the last 15 years on consecutive three-year contracts to the MoD, he believes he should qualify because he is a civil servant.

"There seems to be a loophole or at least an arguable loophole in the way the DES guidelines are interpreted," he said.

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Community bus: pupils from Cantonian high school, Cardiff, ponder the meaning of butter mountains, while lakes and the Common Agricultural Policy on board a double-decker exhibition bus sponsored by the European Commission. The bus is on a 4,000-mile tour of Britain, during which it will visit 70 schools, colleges and universities.

While studying prehistoric Greece, Dr. John Cherry discovered the computer.

Dr. John Cherry lectures in classical archaeology and the pre-history of Greece at the University of Cambridge. And until he started using an Apple™ personal computer, this was a truly Herculean labour.

Since standard typewriters and word-processing systems aren't able to produce the icons and letters of either modern or ancient Greece, twice as much work was required. As Dr. Cherry explains, "I had to write all the Greek parts of my notes, business letters and research papers by hand. Then a secretary using a typewriter specially equipped with a golfball of Greek characters would transcribe them."

A crucial tool for teaching. His Apple Macintosh™ has now made that ancient history Using ordinary word-processing software with added Greek fonts, Dr. Cherry can now type directly onto his screen in any one of five ancient and modern Greek fonts, including Mycenaean Linear B script. The Macintosh can then enhance or modify any portion of the text into a wide variety of styles and point sizes.

Roman characters can be mixed in, if necessary. And when hard copies are needed, they can be instantly printed out, with faithful reproduction. Dr. Cherry says this system allows him "to do word-processing that would otherwise be impossible."

More than a word-processor. Utilising the great wealth of commercially-available software, Dr. Cherry's Macintosh can be put to many other tasks. For example, he is currently running a major

field project in Greece, together with colleagues from universities in the USA and Greece.

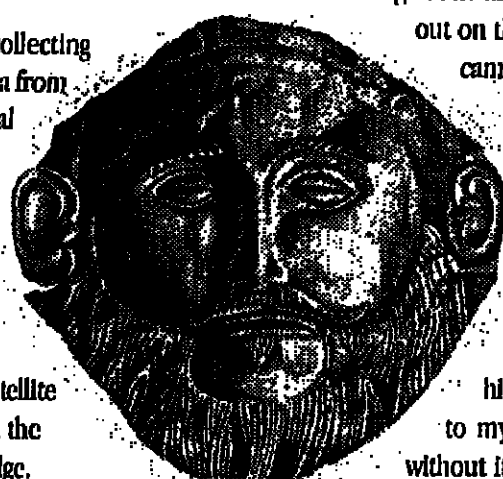
This involves collecting large amounts of data from various archaeological sites, and recording it in notebooks. The information is later loaded onto a computer at the University of Illinois, then transferred by satellite link to a Macintosh at the University of Cambridge.

A typical entry would describe a particular find together with the date it was recovered, the time of day, the soil conditions, and so on. Dr. Cherry can then analyse these entries at his leisure and transform them into graphical displays.

Dr. Cherry makes quite extensive use of graphics in his archaeological work. "I sometimes use my Macintosh in conjunction with a digitizing pad, on which I can trace map drawings for transfer to the computer." These drawings can then be completed by adding text or other illustrations.

Still more ambitious. But his Macintosh's greatest task is yet to come. Dr. Cherry has been commissioned to prepare quite an exhaustive catalogue of the many archaeological sites in Crete. When it's been finished, this will probably number some 1,000 pages, produced entirely on his computer.

The text and illustrations will be



NEWS



Mr Ian Langtry, the man from the DES who relayed Kenneth Baker's message that the Government would not fund the local authorities' planned deal, whispers in the ear of Dr Bill Stubbs, the ILEA's education officer (left).

Scots step back from a claim

by David Ross

A special meeting of the Educational Institute of Scotland last weekend overwhelmingly rejected the Government pay and conditions proposals as anti-teacher and anti-union.

The leadership was successful in winning unanimous support for a ballot on the Riffkin package with a recommendation to vote no; a commitment to a one-day national strike; and a mandate to enter into negotiations with the Government and the local authorities to see if common ground can be found.

Mr Los Fulton, parliamentary convenor, said in moving rejection of the "Riffkin package" that the Scottish Secretary had taken an immense political gamble and would be responsible for any disruption in schools. "Scottish teachers are outraged by the action of the Government in retreating from Main, Scotland is expendable in electoral terms and so it can be ignored."

Seconding for the executive, Mrs Rose Gall, organization convenor, said that isolation was a real threat to the EIS. "At the end of the day the door may be slammed shut in our faces but we must not let it shut ourselves," she said in an appeal not to dismiss the idea of entering talks.

The idea that there would be talks without a pay claim being presented caused most controversy. Mr Tom Connor, Glasgow, moved an amendment that the meeting should commit the union to presenting a pay claim.

"The alternative to Main is a pay claim. It is better to have a smaller pay-award than trading off conditions. The Government, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and the churches all wanted us to accept packages."

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Negotiations continued all week - first in Nottingham and then in London - trying to agree a rival pay and conditions package to that already proposed by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary.

But while union leaders in England and Wales spent many exhausting hours with their employers hammering away at a potential deal, their colleagues north of the border took just half a day to reject the pay terms on offer to them.

Now it looks certain more industrial action in Scotland will follow - while the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers has also issued dire warnings of a winter of discontent in England and Wales.

Weary days and nights with the travelling circus

by James Meikle

Teachers and employers had waited three days for Mr Kenneth Baker to turn a drama into a crisis.

Some teachers' leaders threatened industrial action if the Education Secretary imposed his pay package and the Labour employers complained once more of Government attempts to discredit and destabilize democratic bargaining.

The anger was genuine but most participants in the Nottingham talks had been aware that the Minister would refuse to fund anything that was significantly different from the hierarchical pay structure he wanted, or added substantially to staff costs through new agreements on class sizes, on limits to cover and on free periods for marking and preparation.

Even some negotiators had described the efforts of both sides as seeking pie in the sky while keeping their heads in the sand.

Mr Baker's offer, which would add 10.4 per cent to the education bill over 18 months, had been made a week before the Nottingham talks started but negotiations were nearly 48-hours old before the question of money was formally raised at all.

Observers wondered if the Minister's framework had really concentrated the minds of those taking part or if it had stopped them functioning at all.

The most significant movement over the weekend was provided by the coming and going of negotiators, back-up teams of advisers and journalists frantically trying to find accommodation in which to spend the few hours that separated meetings that were described as "positive and ground clearing" or "peripheral and virtually meaningless" depending on whom you talked to.

The whole scene seemed to be scattered across half the Midlands as Nottingham hotels which had provided beds for the first two nights said there was no room on the third.

The residential weekend had been fixed weeks before the Baker intervention to settle details of conditions of service, on which little had been agreed in the long weeks since outline records were signed at Coventry in July.

Excitement on day one of the talks last Saturday was limited to: a town centre rally by the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers where there were promises of "no sell out" either to local authorities or Mr Baker; newspaper reports that employers were going to improve their own pay offer without meeting Mr Baker's demands; and suggestions from the local authorities on conditions that did little to impress the teachers.

These proposed maximum class sizes of 33 pupils and offered primary teachers a chance of one day a term out of the classroom for developing teaching programmes, marking and other "non-contact" benefits enjoyed by secondary school staff.

The employers said even this offer on non-contact time would cost £31 million a year and require 2,850 extra teachers who could be extremely hard to find. Their paper also gave the cost of one day a term out of the classroom and 3,800 teachers. The employers argued it would be impractical to recruit large numbers of teachers in the short term.

The teachers responded on Sunday with a demand that both primary and secondary school teachers should have 20 per cent non-contact time. They countered a tabled 19-point list of duties and responsibilities with their own reduced 17-point alternative, which hardly differs from Mr Baker's and the employers list. They also suggested class sizes ranging from a maximum of 26 down to 13 in special education and an average of 10 pupils for sixth-form lessons.

The gulf between both sides was still enormous but employers' leader Mr John Pearman tried to sound cheerful, saying both sides were close to an agreement on the difficult subject of contracts. But late on the second day his team could only offer maximum class sizes of 32 pupils and increase guaranteed non-contact time in secondary schools from the five periods proposed in a pre-Nottingham negotiating paper to six periods.

The pace changed when talks resumed on Monday. Mr Pearman asked the unions whether they would stick by their employers and talk further about the college-structure agreed at

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London and the headquarters of the conciliation service Acas.

Mr Pearman told journalists that employers would accept the conditions on pay but said the Government would have to find more money to improve conditions.

Shortly afterwards Mr Baker dropped the guillotine but the day refused to die. After four days in Nottingham, the participants took their weary ways to London on the day after the weekend.

The switch of venue had been accompanied by warnings from the two major heads' associations that they might not accept what was offered from the employers.

The Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association was also equivocating. The teachers looked divided.

In fact, the first significant behind-the-scenes split had come on the employers' side, between Conservative representatives representing metropolitan authorities and those representing county councils.

Conservatives speaking for 14 Tory and hung councils in the Association of Metropolitan Authorities walked out of the talks even before Mr Baker and his own "no Coventry" message to negotiators.

Their exit was not noticed because attention had been fixed on Mr P. Merridale, the Hampshire education authority chairman, who spoke for 12 Tory authorities and some large councils on the Association of County Councils, but who is usually regarded as the voice for all the Tory employers.

Mr Merridale had threatened a Tory walk-out on Monday but in the end the ACC Conservatives stayed in, to the amusement of their AMA colleagues.

Mr Brian Sams, from Bexley, said the Baker proposals represented a better basis for settling pay and conditions.

Class sizes, cover arrangements and free periods ought to be matters for local negotiation according to the availability of resources, he said.

Mr Pearman, who said the employers' offer, indicated that not just formally tabled, was final as he arrived for the London resumption to talks.

Others were not so sure. The employers let it be known that they were offering more than the £30,500 Mr Baker was offering the highest paid heads but over a longer time-span. Top-paid heads would receive more than £31,000.

They also said they would increase the £14,500 top limit for Main Professional Grade teachers to just over £15,000. But they said there would now be no separate 1987 pay award rather a Baker-style staged deal in 1988.

As the TES went to press, it was believed that the extra cost of improved conditions on offer was £20 million over five years. Earlier in the week, Labour negotiations were at a juncture that they would cost £10 million over an unspecified time period, said a source of them.

The whole process of negotiations has largely been by word of mouth. Teachers have steadily refused to break the oath of confidentiality made to employers. Such secrecy is the only subject on which there was a 99 per cent agreement.

Against this depressing scenario, the Education Secretary sought to convince press and public that he had scored a major victory over the Treasury claim as he revealed education spending plans for next year in the light of last week's autumn statement by Chancellor Mr Nigel Lawson.

However, it seemed that his recipe for peace in the classroom had not won the support of all the Conservative Party's traditional political allies.

There was distinct unease expressed at an otherwise malleable conference of the Confederation of British Industry at the prospect of legislation to impose a pay and conditions settlement upon the teachers.

City councils unimpressed by 'divisive' salary offer

by Valentine Low

The employers' rejection of the Education Secretary's proposed settlement of the teachers' pay dispute was supported by delegates to last weekend's Association of Metropolitan Authorities' education conference.

Mr Stephen Byers, from Labour-controlled North Tyneside, said the offer was divisive.

Ms Carol McKeown, from Labour-controlled Birmingham, which was hosting the conference, accused Mr Baker of trying to divide the teacher unions and destroy the credibility of the local authorities.

However, Mr Geoff Wright, chairman of Conservative-controlled Solihull's education committee, said that while education officers had confided to him that the proposals were "unintentionally more workable" than the "Country solution".

Some local authorities are shooting local government in the foot, Professor Maurice Kogan, professor of government and social administration at Brunel University, told the conference.

He added: "They place restrictions on the professional judgement and leadership of their own officers and heads of schools."

"Some are plainly making appointments on political criteria. They thus make a perfect case for those who wish to attack local government."

Baker 'victory' wins extra 19% for education

by Barry Hugill

Education spending is to increase by 18.8 per cent in the 1987-88 financial year, Mr Kenneth Baker claimed last week.

"I have won a large victory," the Education Secretary told a press conference on the Chancellor's autumn statement - the annual Government announcement on public expenditure levels. "This is very good news for the education system, for pupils, children, parents, schools and universities."

But Mr Giles Radice, shadow education spokesman, said that the Government figures were a "fake".

"The reality is that after taking into account teachers' pay Mr Baker has won only an extra £190 million for education which will probably be eaten up by inflation," he said.

However the figures are interpreted there is no doubt that education has received the largest increase of any departmental spending programme.

The most important increases are: £12,850 million for local authority current expenditure - 18.8 per cent more than planned for 1986-87; £1,495 million for university recurrent expenditure and equipment grants; and

£1,495 million for the science budget.

A considerable proportion of the increase in local authority expenditure is to finance the Government's 16.4 per cent pay offer to teachers. Increased spending on textbooks, school repairs and maintenance is also allowed for.

And an extra £100 million is being set aside for the GCSE - primarily for textbooks and equipment and in-service teacher training.

The news for local authorities is not, however, all good. Mr Baker expects them to intensify their efforts to cut school meals costs and make savings on cleaning, caretaking and administration.

He anticipates that they will continue to close or merge schools as rolls continue to fall.

The extra £95 million for the universities will be in return for an agreement from the vice-chancellors that they will take part in a rationalization programme including staff appraisal, more selective research funding, tougher financial management, fewer tenured posts and the merger or closure of small departments.



Mind games: while employers and teachers' leaders struggled with the twists and turns of the pay talks, one teacher had found his own money-spinning solution. Mr Erno Rubik flew into London from Budapest last Friday to launch his magic puzzle, successor to the Rubik Cube which sold 150 million worldwide.

CBI warning over imposed pay deal

by Mark Jackson

The Confederation of British Industry has warned Mr Kenneth Baker not to impose a pay deal on teachers.

The CBI annual conference on Monday voted overwhelmingly for a resolution backing higher pay for teachers and calling for more effective use of buildings and equipment.

Mr Roland Long, the Yorkshire industrialist who moved the resolution, was prepared for resistance from delegates angered by the effects of the pay dispute on schools. He appealed to them to recognize that a way had to be found to end it. "Our entire future is at stake," he warned, and added: "I am bound to make an appeal to the Secretary of State for Education."

"No matter how great the temptation, no matter how great the provocation, it is the hallmark of a free society that terms and conditions are agreed rather than imposed. There is no conceivable Act of Parliament which can oblige people to give commitment, and it is in education above all else that we must strive for commitment."

Mr Long said that it was no mean feat for Mr Baker to have extracted an extra £65 million of Treasury money at a time when "the Chancellor's gaze is firmly, if mistakenly, set upon the prospects of a supposedly vote-winning cut in taxation, and I hope even his opponents can pay him credit for that."

Whatever the immediate outcome, it would take a long time to restore confidence, rebuild morale, and win commitment. The status of teaching which had been eroded over a decade, had to be resolved, he said.

For a free society to survive in a future of shorter working weeks and lives, education had to become a lifelong experience with access for all. "Without such access the decline into mindless violence will threaten the whole fabric of our society," he said.

Mr John Peake, of engine makers Baker Perkins, said that teachers had a vital responsibility to society, and needed to have their work fully recognized. "They also need, as do we, peace in schools. We must all use our influence to ensure that an agreement on pay and conditions that is widely regarded as fair is reached by the parties involved."

But, he added, the deal must represent value for money, and be broad enough to accommodate measures to attract teachers of maths, physics, and CDT. It must also provide the right climate for the introduction of the GCSE and the successful linking of schools and vocational examinations.

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Bradford set to ban staff from public criticisms

by Frank Pedley

All employees of Bradford Council, including teachers, may soon be banned from publicly criticizing the authority if draft guidelines are approved.

The guidelines instruct staff in how to deal with the media. They would encourage employees to publicize "the beneficial aspects of the authority's work". However, staff are warned against referring to such "sensitive areas" as policy-making, political controversy, or the council's performance.

The document, which was leaked to the *Yorkshire Post*, comes soon after a teacher published an article critical of the authority's advertisement for a sex equality officer. According to Mr John Lambert, the Labour chairman of the education committee, the advertisement had to be drafted in such a way that a woman would be appointed.

The guidelines were drawn up by Mr Brian McAndrew, the deputy chief executive. They say: "The only legitimate channel of policy is the official machinery set up within the directorates, directly with immediate managers, or through recognized trade unions." All officers are instructed to consult their superiors before speaking to the media and "individual officers are forbidden to seek to influence or change council policy via media activity".

Mr Ronnie Farley, the Tory opposition group leader, has said that while they would endorse clear guidelines to the staff about dealing with the media, they "would not countenance any moves that would curtail our employees' personal liberties".

NAB dampens Tory hopes of student loans scheme

by Jeremy Sutcliffe



George Walden: blow

Government hopes that the academic world will support a mixed student grants-loans scheme received a major setback last week when the National Advisory Body for Local Authority Higher Education rejected the principle of loans.

The decision was made at a meeting of the NAB committee, which is chaired by Mr George Walden, the minister for higher education. It is thought the committee split 4-3, with one Conservative member absent.

The vote is bound to be a blow for Mr Walden, who is also chairing an internal Government review of student support. He is known to be a supporter of student loans.

The Government's embarrassment will increase if, as is thought likely, the University Grants Committee fails to submit evidence to Mr Walden's review because of dissension within its own ranks over a loans scheme.

Church of England condemns proposals

The Church of England has strongly condemned Government proposals to make full-time students more responsible for their own upkeep, writes Bert Lodge.

It says grants should be enough for students to live without undue anxiety and they should not be obliged to live at home, find part-time work or a commercial sponsor, or be forced to rely on loans.

The church's board of education says in a submission to a Government review on student financial support that such provisions are all possible consequences of the policy outlined in

a letter from Mr Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary, on October 7. He wrote that "public resources available will be broadly commensurate with what is currently spent on students via student awards and social security benefits".

The board says this means, in effect, that grants will be kept to their present inadequate level and other sources of support will have to be found - yet the value of the grant had dropped by 19 per cent since 1979.

During the same period, the parental contribution had risen from 25 per cent to 43 per cent.

vote against all consideration of loans as an option in its evidence to the review of student support.

The committee consists of Mr Walden, and six local authority politicians - two Conservatives, one Alliance member and three Labour representatives, including Mr John Pearson, leader of the Burnham employers' side. Mr Christopher Ball, warden of Keeble College, Oxford, votes as an ex-officio member.

Impetus for a mixed grants-loans system snowballed when the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals added its weight to the idea at the end of September. The NAB committee by the board which comprises members drawn from polytechnics and colleges, local politicians and representatives from industry and elsewhere, means there is influential opposition to loans.

The board said that acquiring spare-time work was hard enough with so many unemployed. The British higher education system, with its intensive three or four-year courses, was not designed to allow students time off to earn a living.

As for loans as a supplement to grants, they could condition the type of course a student would choose - with the financial returns coming first.

The board said: "We also have serious reservations about the morality of requiring students to incur debts before they even begin their studies."



Closer co-operation urged between schools and museums

Call to extend art studies

by Owen Surridge

Art teachers were told last week not to be intimidated by GCSE requirements to extend their teaching from the practical business of painting and drawing to critical studies and the history of art.

Mr Anthony Dyson, of London University's Institute of Education, speaking at the annual conference of the National Society for Education in Art and Design, said: "Some notion of historical perspective is necessary, but not as a crushing set of facts to be memorized."

He added: "We should not allow ourselves to become enmeshed in the interminable struggles of art historians, but we should know what their arguments are about."

"Teachers and children need to know what distinguishes a great work

of art from the commonplace and both should be studied."

Mr Rod Taylor, Wigan art adviser, told the Bath conference that i.e.a.s. should provide loan collections ranging across the arts and crafts - as in the 1950s and 60s.

It was time, he said, to disinter them from the store cupboards and see that they were properly supplemented with explanations and supporting materials so that teachers unfamiliar with the idea could use them.

Dr Sheila Paine, of the London Institute of Education, called for more co-operation between schools and museums. "Teachers could help by pushing harder to make more use of museums - not merely on days out but in the same way they would expect to use libraries."

Ulster quotas

Northern Ireland parents will have more say in their children's education if new Government proposals on grammar and secondary intakes are implemented.

A discussion paper proposes the abolition of intake quotas to secondary schools and the removal of grading for the 11-plus transfer procedure - but with the retention of the 27 per cent grammar and 73 per cent secondary ratio.

It also suggests the publication of inspection reports on secondaries and increased fees for children who fail the 11-plus, but not grammar applicants.

Admin jobs

Lincolnshire education authority has agreed to employ five new officials to deal with pay after newly-appointed and promoted teachers failed to receive correct salaries for a second month.

NALGO, the local government officers' union, said the L.E.A.'s hand was forced by the threat of industrial action after introduction of computerized records led to the loss of 117 jobs.

But a spokesman for Lincolnshire said the decision was part of a "positive reorganization review".

More than 500 teachers received their salaries up to two weeks late in September - and when they were paid, they were for the wrong month.

IN BRIEF

Heads in protest

About 200 angry headteachers led a meeting of the Labour-controlled Inner London Education Authority last week in protest at its decision to reduce their representation on its education committee.

An A.C.S.-inspired formula suggested the two headteachers' organizations should share a place in the Labour group, however, believes the plan should also be shared with the Association of Teachers' and Schoolmasters' Unions, while the two TUC-affiliated teachers' unions, the National Union of Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, should have places reserved for them.

Union merger

The Trades Union Congress has been asked to help settle policy differences between the two largest teachers' unions in England and Wales.

The appeal has been made by the National Union of Teachers, which is committed to seeking a merger with the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers.

Mr Fred Jarvis, NUT general secretary, has told TUC leaders that divisions between unions are hampering attempts to defend the education service. He has asked for their help in establishing common policies among all TUC-affiliated unions while teaching.

Parents' choice

Parents in Kingston upon Thames are to decide what form of 16-19 provision they would like.

The Alliance-controlled council is determined to scrap the borough grammar schools, but is asking parents to choose between a number of options.

Construction cash

Each of the five education and library boards in Northern Ireland is to receive £250,000 for maintenance and minor repairs.

A further £1.3 million has been allocated to cover the cost arising from the closure of the supply, and an additional £1 million for improvements to special care schools. It brings the construction-related expenditure within the education capital budget this year to £34 million, an increase of £28 million last year.

Crucial policy

A whole school equal opportunities policy, where support is available from the head and senior staff for planning, practice and review, is crucial if the 1981 Education Act is to be successfully implemented, says the Special Educational Needs National Advisory Council (SENAC) in a new leaflet about the professional challenge to mainstream teachers.

RE grant

The Welsh National Centre for Religious Education feels that the principal's grant of £59,000 for in-service training in the subject is inadequate. According to the centre, it is a figure six times lower than that allocated to other educational priority areas such as maths, science and CDT.

Work experience

Croydon education authority has earmarked £48,000 for a series of vocational training schemes, including a work experience agency for school pupils, to run jointly with industry.

Workbooks guide

Familiarizing teachers, industrialists, trade unions and other interested bodies with the scope and rationale of work experience workbooks is the aim of *Work Experience Workbooks: A Critical Review*, written by Ian Jamieson, Bob Newman and Jack Peffer.

Published by Longman for the School Curriculum Development Committee, it is available, price £2.50, from the Longman resources Unit, 100 Brook Hill Road, Haverthorpe, York YO3 8XQ.



Sheila Innes: political skills and tact

Open College opts for Innes

The Open College, the broadcasting-based programme of mass training and vocational education which begins next autumn, is to be run by one of educational broadcasting's two strong women.

A high-powered panel which included Lord Young, the Employment Secretary, has chosen Ms Sheila Innes, the BBC's controller of educational broadcasting, as chief executive. Her chief rival for the job was Channel Four's education head, Ms Naomi Sargent, who is credited with having originated the scheme and has so far played a dominating role in pushing it through.

Along with Lord Young, the panel had the MSC's director, Mr Geoffrey Holland, Mr Michael Green, the OC's part-time chairman, Mr John Whitley, director-general of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, and Mr Jeremy Isaacs, Channel Four's chief executive.

It would seem that, in making their choice, the panel put a premium on the political skills and tact which characterize Ms Innes rather than on direct experience in the administration of an independent mass open learning institution.

Ms Sargent, who is rather more abrasive, was a senior manager of the Channel University before going to Channel Four. Her cooperation will be an important factor in getting the new programme off the ground because of

her channel's central role in the broadcasting arrangements.

Miss Innes is expected to take up her new post as soon as the BBC can release her so that she can assemble a team able to get at least some courses lined up for the autumn deadline.

Her first task will be to take part in choosing her two principal subordinates, who will run the courses and the student support activities respectively. There have been a very large number of applications for the posts, one of which is likely to go to someone from mainstream education.

Meanwhile, a considerable amount of preparatory work is being carried out for the college by the Manpower Services Commission, which has set up an Open College team headed by an assistant secretary, Mr Kevin White. They are being helped by two advisory groups, on which are represented the education service, the broadcasting organizations, local authorities, the examining bodies, and both sides of industry. One of the groups is working on the pattern of courses, and the other on creating a network of student resource centres, which will include further education colleges.

The groups, which are headed by Mr Holland and by Mr Ian Johnston, chief executive of the MSC's vocational education and training group, will remain in existence permanently so that the MSC can carry out its responsibility for providing continuing help to the Open College.

Bringing vision to the BBC

When Sheila Innes became Controller of BBC Education in 1984, she brought the qualities of drive and "considerable vision" to the job, according to Professor Ted Wragg, director of Exeter University's School of Education and chairman of the Schools Broadcasting Council.

Her appointment came at a time when the BBC's commitment to education was in doubt, as educational broadcasting was threatened by government cutbacks and by the desire of other BBC mandarins to expand their empire.

However, "she took all the new technologies on board and understood their relative importance immediately," Professor Wragg said.

Equally important, Sheila Innes developed an awareness of political skills: "She won the confidence of the government early on."

She would not hesitate to go straight to the governors to defend her realm, and has shown an ability to bring people together and win their respect and cooperation.

It is a measure of her success as a promoter and politician that during her two-and-a-half years as Controller, there have been few erosions to either the autonomy of BBC Education or its broadcast hours. The main victim has been radio, which has suffered partial

subsequent fall in the number of schools taking the programmes. It is still under threat.

Her previous appointment was Head of Continuing Education, where she had overseen the highly successful adult literacy and computer literacy projects, as well as other broad but lesser known ones. For example, a series for mentally handicapped children, called *Let's Go*, was a collaboration between Schools Broadcasting and Continuing Education.

As Euffron Gwynne Jones, head of BBC Television, said: "She invented the concept of BBC schools education", bringing together what were separate and even competing departments.

Her awareness of how far she will need these abilities at the Open College, where the groups are much more disparate, is illustrated by a statement she made this week: "What is unique about the college is that in harnessing the power of broadcasting to the task of learning, it will be in partnership with all the broadcasters - the independent companies, the BBC, Channel 4 and the Independents - in a bid to reach out to all sectors of the population."

"The whole should be significantly greater than the sum of the parts," she said. "It is like the right hand, it's certainly the right line."

Carolyn O'Grady

SCHOOL TO WORK

Employers mute criticism of Government training policies

Election fears drive CBI rebels back to the Tory fold

Britain's employers, who last year broke all precedent by attacking Government cuts in education, are back to business as usual. The Confederation of British Industry conference at Bournemouth this week disposed of education and training in a few minutes, albeit with a call for higher pay for teachers.

Tribal loyalties in the run-up to a general election reasserted themselves - (just as they did at last month's TUC) and its approach to training was muted. Most of the resolutions tabled, apart from one which demanded a "more regulatory approach", urged employers, as well as schools, to do better.

Training was a major preoccupation of last year's presidential address, but was hardly mentioned by the new president, Mr David Nickson, who was more concerned with union laws, taxes, and the rediscovered kinship with the party of free enterprise. It was as if, having done its duty by Industry 'Year', the CBI was returning to its primal concerns.

So it was left to voices from outside the CBI establishment, a group of the confederation's young futurists and a guest from the other side of industry, to remind the conference that the battle for the right kind of education and training system has yet to be won.

Education and training should come before even health, housing, or pensions, in the national priorities, Mr

report, which envisages a meritocratic society, with a strong emphasis on training.

The Britain they would like to see would be highly innovative, with flexible work patterns and no status distinctions between different groups of employees. Cash redundancy payments would be abolished in favour of training grants so that the redundant could equip themselves for new jobs.

The group calls for a "broad-based curriculum to replace early specialization in schools, so as to fit pupils to respond to opportunities rather than channel them into studies which may quickly become irrelevant to either their own needs or those of society."

"We advocate a curriculum which should be nationally determined to ensure a consistent approach throughout the country. This may well require the Government to take direct control over funding."

The school-leaving age may need to be raised, it adds. The group says that its proposals demand the highest calibre of teachers, which means that they would have to be well paid and assured that education was highly valued. "This should lead to a standard in state schools, which would render private education an expensive irrelevance", the report claims.

Edited by Mark Jackson



Gavin Laird: education priority

Pupils at factory gate again

by Ian Nash

Sixty-six years after the prohibition of child labour, 11-year-olds in Wolverhampton are setting off bright and early for a day at the factory. And the school that sent them there is getting a pay off.

Valley Park School, which has moved a classroom into a local factory, has won a £250 award from the Learning from Industry scheme sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Science and Technology Regional Organisations of the Standing Conference on Schools' Science and Technology.

All 11 to 18-year-olds are to visit the classroom, set up at Spicer Transmissions, regularly for lessons on industry and commerce, starting with health and safety in the workplace. Projects range from production and marketing to one on avant-garde music composition based on factory sounds.

The school orchestra will gain a valuable rehearsal venue by giving "music while you work" concerts, and industrial workshops will be available for students of craft, design and technology.

Receiving the £250 award from Lord Lucas, Trade and Industry Under Secretary, Mrs Joan Stevenson, deputy head of Valley Park, asked: "What better way of creating an environment in which to learn about industry?"

"Pupils agree," Mohamed Elam said: "For the first time we can learn for ourselves what industry is about."

Kamenia Patel said: "At first I expected it to be a noisy messy place, but the atmosphere is great."

Mr Tony Ryder, a plant manager, said it was important to demonstrate that industry had something to offer all subjects. "It is also important for industry to see that schools have much to offer us."

Lord Lucas agreed. "One of the most pleasing activities of Industry Year has been the number of schools that have set up links with industry," he said.

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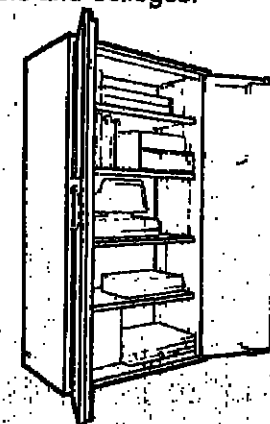
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THE TIMES



The 'varsity vote

Next week: In some constituencies, swaying the student vote will win the day: throughout Britain, politicians have increasingly recognized the importance of the young voter. *The Times* looks at the role of the youth strategists of all parties who are attempting to break through the apparent apathy of 6.5 million voters under 25

and regularly in *The Times*, Bernard Levin (right) on the way we live now, David Miller on sport, Kenneth Fleet on finance, Irving Wardle on the theatre, Geoffrey Smith on politics, Peter Ackroyd on books, Frank Johnson in Parliament, Paul Griffiths on music, Suzy Menkes on fashion, Clifford Longley on the Church, Philip Howard on words, Jonathan Meades on eating out, David Robinson on the cinema, the humour of Miles Kingdon



THE TIMES (25D)

OVERSEAS

So you think you've got problems! In a week when the Government and local authorities were trying to force new contracts upon teachers in England and Wales, a British teacher - Lynda Green - starts an occasional series on teaching abroad by revealing what it is like to teach in Madrid

A Spanish holiday? Certainly not

Overseas teachers often find working in Britain a harrowing experience: they are horrified at the pastoral, lunchtime and break-time duties and the unpaid evening meetings.

They are mystified by the assumption that, especially at secondary level, specialist subject teachers also preoccupy themselves with the lunchtime behaviour of students, their uniform, absence notes and family problems.

However, after a term at a large school in the centre of Madrid, I discovered that the pressures on Spanish teachers are even greater than those at home.

Pupils aged 4 to 15 attend one school, the *Colegio de Educación Básica*. I was told only 50 per cent would go on to the next stage, either a traditional *Instituto* preparing for the equivalent of O and A levels, or a *Centro de Formación Profesional*, a technical college.

Spanish teachers therefore cope with large numbers of school-leavers who take no exams, have little hope of finding jobs and who have been in the same school since the age of four.

I taught three groups of leavers, of very mixed ability and each with its fair share of disrupters, but I was surprised that the pupils' frustration and boredom were not even greater. They had attended the same school for nine years and the atmosphere was unmistakably that of a primary.

All teachers had the responsibility of a form and dealt with more paperwork and official documents than their British counterparts. There was a system of continuous assessment, with a report six times a year for which the tutor recorded all grades in personal record books, in files and on report sheets sent home to parents.

The tutor was additionally burdened with an overall summary of the performance of the tutor group. When I presented mine for the head's signature a correction was spotted and I was asked to re-type it all. There was no secretarial help.

Cover for absent teachers was not available unless the time away ran into weeks. My two non-teaching periods per week were often spent teaching for absent colleagues at several minutes' notice.

With no administrative staff, teachers were informed of meetings, messages and school events by a system of pupil runners. They would appear two or three times during lessons and were considered a welcome interruption.

In a school of more than 1,000 pupils there was no nurse, when a serious accident occurred, the teacher on duty loaded the child into his car and braved the Madrid traffic.

The timing of the school day presented an additional problem. We started at 9am with the tutor escorting the group from the patio, up the wide staircase and into the classroom. Classes continued until noon with one short break. The teacher worked until 1pm, using the extra hour for marking, helping pupils or seeing parents. Afternoon school was from 3pm to 5pm.

Spanish teachers treated the long lunch break with respect, many staying at school to eat in the long dining hall, where pupils and staff were served by white-uniformed waitresses. The food was excellent, three courses, with wine and coffee for staff, all taken at a leisurely pace with lively conversation. Older pupils were put in charge of a table of younger ones and, although



The pressures on Spanish teachers can be enormous. Inset: Lynda Green

the noise was overwhelming, behaviour was good.

The school building I taught in was old and cavernous, like a Victorian town hall influenced by Arab culture - with high ceilings and stone floors.

Teaching any subject in such an echo-chamber would have been exhausting, but a foreign language using audio methods produced staves of bewilderment quickly followed by slugs and loss of interest.

It is difficult for Spanish teachers to change jobs. Direct application cannot be made to a school or college; changes are arranged by the Ministry of Education and posts are awarded according to a points system, depending mainly on experience and general usefulness.

There is no half-term holiday, but several fiestas or occasional days in honour of saints or the King's birthday. These always have an air of suspense about them as they must be confirmed each time by the authorities. The final week of term is free of pupils and used to complete files and other documents. On the last day the pupils return, many with their parents,

to collect reports. Teachers must decide whether the student has passed or failed.

In the case of failure, a programme of *reprobación* for the student to work through the holiday is prepared. These pupils present themselves for an additional examination in September before the term starts. The initial failure rate is high, a scandalous 80 per cent in Catalonia this year.

The last two days of the school year seemed chaotic. "It's a madhouse," one member of staff commented as about six of us crowded into the school office to use typewriters or photocopiers, trying to ignore the restive parents waiting to discuss their child's progress.

An opportunity to release the tension was welcomed by all of us at the end-of-term staff lunch. *Cazpacho* and shellfish, champagne and brandy, with one end of the table throwing challenging bursts of regional songs in the other, the rest clapping. The headmistress performing a traditional dance is a sight I shall not forget for a while.

Decline of Gaelic spoils dream of bilingualism

IRISH REPUBLIC

John Walshe looks at Government report on language teaching

The teaching of Irish in the Republic's schools is in serious decline, says a Government report.

A quarter of Leaving Certificate students either fail or do not take the subject and the figure could more than double within a decade, it warns.

The study of Irish is compulsory in all the Republic's primary and secondary schools, except for those pupils born abroad.

The education system has been the main vehicle for promoting successive governments' policies on the language. Approaches have changed over the years but the time, resources, effort given to reviving Irish has been considerable.

From the 1920s to the 1960s, a general understanding of language policy was that the use of English in the schools should be displaced through the revival of Irish.

This notion was replaced by a bilingual approach, under which the native tongue would be maintained in a society where English would continue to be widely spoken.

A truly bilingual society is a long way off, although about 30 per cent of the population have a moderate to good knowledge and understanding of Irish.

Only about 5 per cent of the population use it as their first language and they mostly live in the Gaelic-speaking areas in the western seaboard. Bord na Gaeilge, the State's advisory body for promoting the language, appointed an advisory planning committee.

The committee also assessed statistics on two other State examinations. It showed that 30 per cent of pupils taking the Intermediate Certificate test - usually at around the age of 15 - either failed or did not take Irish. The figure for the Group Certificate was even more shocking - around 60 per cent. This test is taken by 14 and 15-year-olds, mainly working-class or lower-ability pupils.

"The committee warns that the language could be increasingly regarded by many Irish people as the preserve of an academically-educated middle class."

The advisers list a number of factors contributing to the situation including the expansion of the school curriculum; the emphasis on science and technology; the declining relevance of the language for career purposes; the removal of the necessity to pass Irish in State examinations; and the expansion of higher education opportunities outside the university sector.

Irish is a requirement for the National University of Ireland colleges. Bord na Gaeilge is seeking an early meeting with the Republic's Education Minister, Mr Paddy Cooney, to discuss the report and the measures the State can take to halt the further decline of Irish.



Family favoured: Joseph Kennedy, son of the assassinated Robert, celebrates his election to the House of Representatives for the Democrats in Massachusetts

Okies corral vocational project plaudits

When state directors of vocational education in the United States were asked recently "Which state has the best vocational system?", the result was a landslide. Fifty-four per cent named Oklahoma.

Without enjoying the same public profile as the University of Oklahoma - whose football team is also habitually number one in the national ratings - the state's vocational technical system, known in local vernacular as Vo-Tech, has just as high a political priority.

When the Okies' state governor, Mr George Nigh, was forced to cut spending because of the crash in oil prices, he said: "We realize that you can't treat education and economic development in isolation. The two go hand in hand and this system is an immense asset to our state," he explained.

He paid further tribute to the system's success earlier this year when he summoned Dr Francis Tuttle, Vo-Tech director for 18 years, back from the golf course on his first day of retirement to make him state secretary for commerce.

Dr Tuttle's role as "father of Vo-Tech" is also recognized in the name of the Francis Tuttle Vo-Tech in Oklahoma City. Looking back at the origins of the system, he says: "In the 1960s, it was realized that if the state wanted to move from dependence on oil and agriculture, we'd have to have a highly trained and skilled workforce."

A change in the state constitution was needed to create the system. "This set up 24 Vo-Tech areas, each of them a tax district so they had the power to raise the money they needed," he recalls.

Today those districts run 42 Vo-Tech schools, most of them purpose-built and lavishly equipped with state-of-the-art machinery and training materials. District taxes raise 60 per cent of the

\$125 million annual budget, with the rest contributed by the state.

The system is used every year by 230,000 people - more than 1 in 15 of the state's population. Some 70 per cent of adults have been educated beyond high school.

Last year, about 60,000 students in the last two years of high school - equivalent to the sixth form - took up the option of spending two-and-a-half days a week at a Vo-Tech with the other half days at school. Dr Tuttle reckons this group evenly reflects the cohort's ability range.

Where British TVEI participants take a range of subjects, their counterparts in Oklahoma take two-year courses aimed specifically at employment in a particular industry.

He proudly quotes firms who say that this pre-entry training cuts on-the-job

training requirements by half.

Unemployment among former Vo-Tech trainees is 2 per cent, against a state average of 9 per cent. This fact has influenced adults in Oklahoma to stream into the Vo-Tech system. Previously, adults wanting training were likely to be placed in odd vacancies in school classes - now they form two-thirds of Vo-Tech customers.

A range of full-time, part-time and evening courses has developed to meet the demand from both employed people wanting to upgrade skills and the unemployed. In-state fees average about a dollar per hour.

All over the United States, vocational students are using materials originally developed in Oklahoma. Sales of \$2 million (£1.38 million) last year make course development self-financing.

He proudly quotes firms who say that this pre-entry training cuts on-the-job

OVERSEAS

Democratic win repays \$2.3m union backing

UNITED STATES

Bill Norris reports how the Senate election mainly went the teachers' way

and, like the NEA, included one Republican, Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania. He won.

The AFT has monitored the voting records of congressmen and senators for the past two years and issued a "report card" on each one of them before the election.

This disclosed that some 10 senators and 74 members of the House of Representatives had "100 per cent" voting records - meaning that they had supported the AFT point of view on every education vote. All but one were Democrats.

On the negative side, four senators and 50 congressmen were given a score of zero. All but one were Republicans.

The Democrats' control of the Senate, and their slightly increased majority in the House of Representatives, will give education lobbyists a stronger hand in their bid to reverse the Reagan Administration's perennial assault on federal education funding.

The extra muscle will be needed in the next two years to defend a number of important programmes due to come up for renewal during the 100th Congress. Among these are the Chapter One scheme, under which some six million disadvantaged children currently receive special education, and the bilingual education programme.

Both are under threat from Mr William Bennett, the Education Secretary, who has already modified the bilingual scheme rules to place greater emphasis on the teaching of English, and is seeking to supplant Chapter One with a voucher system

which is being opposed by both teachers' unions.

Though the main focus of last week's election was on Congress, the contest also involved large numbers of state "propositions", under which American voters get the chance to make direct decisions on matters of policy. Many of these will affect education more directly, and certainly more swiftly, than anything that happens on Capitol Hill.

California, for instance, voted overwhelmingly to make English the official language of the state - a move which could have considerable implications for the bilingual education programme in schools which have a high percentage of Spanish-speaking pupils, and could even have an effect on the teaching of foreign languages.

The Los Angeles board of education strongly opposed the measure, known as Proposition 63, calling it "ominous, ambiguous and unnecessary." It passed, anyway.

A second California proposition, which would have required schools to close their doors to any students or teachers carrying the Aids virus, was defeated with the help of strong campaigning by the California Teachers' Association.

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Carrots for the teachers, sticks for the bureaucrats

CHINA

A special foundation has been established in China to reward middle, primary and kindergarten staff who are considered outstanding.

The launch was announced by Li Peng, China's Education Commission chief and vice-premier, when he addressed a national conference of schoolteachers.

After praising a number of staff from around the country for their outstanding contributions to the spread of elementary education, he said: the foundation would be a way of encouraging the country's 10 million teachers. It was China's long-term policy to reward all outstanding staff

and those who made important contributions to education.

The new foundation, which includes leading personalities from home and abroad, will raise funds largely through public donations with some additional support from the Government. The money will be placed in the Industrial and Commercial Bank and interest used to reward outstanding teachers.

However, Li added that progress in education was being seriously hampered by "bureaucracy", inefficiency and over-centralization.

Unless these problems were solved, "it will be impossible to promote basic education and implement the law on compulsory education," he continued.

Li said that, since the law on compulsory education was passed last April, the State Council had adopted a number of policies and measures to reform the educational system, increase funding and improve the often dreadful teaching conditions in schools.

But, while funding was clearly still inadequate, local government was starting to become more enthusiastic about education.

Li warned, however, of the dangers of the "blind pursuit of speed". Different standards and schedules should be applied in various areas when implementing compulsory education.

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NEW ZEALAND

Last year the Gordian knot of sixth-form awards was cut at a stroke by Mr Russell Marshall, New Zealand's Minister of Education. The old university entrance exam was axed and the sixth-form certificate was left as the one link to further education.

But seven boys-only schools have just announced that they are setting up their own rival examination system along the lines of the more academic university entrance paper.

The Minister says he regrets the move and that 98 per cent of schools, and most employers and parents supported the switch to the sixth-form certificate, which is internally assessed.

Mr Peter Allan, the Post-Primary Teachers' Association president, says: "The exercise can only be described as a con - parents should not be fooled into believing this new exam can offer

pass grades instead of marks, and everyone in the sixth form gets one. With the old exam gone, it should have become the one credential. Instead it has given rise to crisis and controversy."

Temporary validity has been found in linking it to the school certificate examination, externally assessed, in the fifth form. But most teachers want the school certificate to be marked internally as well. The Minister is keen on the idea and looking for ways to bring about his aim of "schools without failure".

The certificate was introduced to encourage a more relaxed year's work and broaden the curriculum without exam pressures.

But some schools have stuck to a limited range of subjects and put heavy work loads on their pupils with constant small tests.

The university entrance exam enabled students to return to school to take bursary and scholarship exams. The certificate, however, allows a greater variety of subjects, has nine

pass grades instead of marks, and everyone in the sixth form gets one. With the old exam gone, it should have become the one credential. Instead it has given rise to crisis and controversy."

Temporary validity has been found in linking it to the school certificate examination, externally assessed, in the fifth form. But most teachers want the school certificate to be marked internally as well. The Minister is keen on the idea and looking for ways to bring about his aim of "schools without failure".

The certificate was introduced to encourage a more relaxed year's work and broaden the curriculum without exam pressures.

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Russell Marshall: regrets move.

Poor reception

Sir - While it was pleasing to see a fairly generous coverage of the Manchester conference (TES, October 31), it was a pity that your headline was inaccurate. The conference was not on "the latest advanced courses for teaching young children", but was on "Education and the four-year-old: a cause for concern".

Although the statutory age for a child to start his school life in an infant school is five, it is nevertheless the scandalous situation that just under a quarter of a million children under five are in infant classes (that is, 73 per cent of the four-year-olds population). This would not necessarily be of concern if the provision, the resources and the qualifications of all the teachers were such that the needs and capabilities of these young children could be properly catered for. But sadly this is not the case.

As the recent NFER research by Cleave and colleagues shows (Cleave, S. et al (1982) *And So To School* - NFER, Nelson), most reception classes with four-year-olds in them are severely constrained by too little and unsuitable indoor and outdoor space; resources are geared too much to the 3Rs, and too little to the social and personal needs of the children; there is more group than individual work, and the predominantly teacher-structured activities are of the more formal, structured type. There are very limited opportunities for genuinely spontaneous play and, perhaps most importantly, very often the teacher may well lack the knowledge and understanding of what a truly enhancing, facilitating environment for under-fives should be.

Your welcome report of the long-term studies on differing pre-school education programmes which are now emerging shows quite clearly how the more "formal" approaches mentioned above have an eventual adverse effect



on children's all-round development and progress.

The fact of the matter is that it has now become an unwritten law that formal schooling in England starts at four - something which every other country in the world must view with incredulity. These unfortunate children should be in a good nursery school or play group, with appropriately qualified teachers.

Now that the general election is on the horizon, we are already hearing the usual mumbblings from all parties that nursery education is one of their priorities. But bitter experience over the past 30 years has taught us not to believe a word of it. Even though we now have hard evidence of the long-term benefits of a good nursery school, education, one suspects that this will not affect actual policies.

Your report justified to acknowledge that the coverage had been inflated and organized by TACTYC (Tutors of Advanced Courses for Teachers of Young Children).

JENEFER JOSEPH
Chairwoman, TACTYC
30 Bournehall Lane
Busey
Hertfordshire

Source of supply

Sir - I have read with interest recent articles on the subject of supply cover; this is becoming an increasing problem, as a result of the Coventry agreement, QCESE and TVEI Related In-Service Training.

Last month in our school we used 11 different supply teachers covering a total of 76½ days' absence for a variety of reasons; we were entitled to use even more but on occasions our list was exhausted and unfortunately the authority was unable to support us.

Here are these increasing numbers of supply teachers going to come from? There are a number of strategies I believe are worth pursuing - nationally or locally, in some cases linked to putting equal opportunities policies into practice.

1 Create a career structure for supply teachers (some authorities already do this).

2 Give a mileage allowance for supply

Peril of assembly line attitudes to INSET courses

Sir - I write in support of Alan Evans' excellent article (TES, Platform, October 31) about some of the dangers facing the new INSET arrangements. Let me begin by declaring an interest as a member of one of the providing institutions of in-service courses and by mentioning one or two benefits of the proposed changes.

DES Circular 6/86 is having positive effects on higher education institutions on both sides of the binary line by encouraging us to pool source expertise in areas such as special educational needs and pastoral care and multi-cultural education.

Some of us probably needed the stimulus of a new framework to develop more school-based and more modular courses for teachers.

Having said that, it would be a seriously retrograde step if all or most teachers suddenly found their chances of personal development constricted to a limited choice of short, 20-day courses on issues selected by the managers of the system.

Teachers I have talked to recently in both the North-East and London are aware of their need to step back from the routine of their classrooms and to step out of their own school to discuss common problems with fellow professionals.

Do not our present and future heads

of department, deputy heads, and headteachers need not just to read about, but have personal knowledge of alternative practices both in this country and in Western Europe?

To take but one example, surely TVEI co-ordinators have something to learn from personal experience of the system of vocational education in West Germany?

How can any of this be done in 20 school-based days?

All members of the education profession (and not just university lecturers) have a recurrent need for prolonged periods of reflection, dialogue and exposure to new ideas.

Staff development is not a process like a car assembly line where extras (like management, computer or drug education) are stuck on to the foreheads of teachers as they run past.

If we are seriously interested in improving the quality of learning for all our children, then we shall have to break away from the notion that INSET is nothing more than mud flaps, metallic paint, or retractable headlights to the basic model.

FRANK COFFIELD
Head of Department
School of Education
University of Durham

Anti-racist study

Sir - Michael Payne's letter (TES, October 3), in response to the feature by Shahneaz Akhtar and Ian Stronach ("They call me blacky", TES, September 19), suggests the anti-racist movement needs to place far more emphasis on "largely white primary and secondary schools".

Throughout this year some infant, primary and secondary teachers from schools in East and West Sussex are meeting to look at anti-racist and multicultural education. We should be pleased to hear from similar groups.

SCILLA FUREY
Education Development Building
University of Sussex

Word of mouth

Sir - I was very interested in the article "A fair hearing" by Kathleen Cox (TES, October 10). Kathleen Cox, who suffers from partial deafness herself, mentions some tactics which help her to understand what people say.

She says: "The speaker should help by looking directly at the listener to allow the non-verbal, as well as the verbal, content of the communication to take place," and "Putting the face in a good light and not covering the mouth with hand or beard." This clearly indicates the help which she derives from lip-reading, although she does not mention the word.

Points of view

Sir - Put two teachers in a room and you have three points of view! One only has to look at page 3 of the TES on October 24.

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers announces half-day strikes seeking higher rates; the Professional Association of Teachers asks the Secretary of State to impose a settlement; the National Association of Head Teachers is reasonably confident that the Coventry Heads of Agreement can lead to an agreement in Nottingham; the PAT accuses the National Union of Teachers of having done a deal with John Pearnan. Of the Secondary

Lip-reading is a very valuable skill for the hard of hearing and it can be taught by specially trained teachers. Unfortunately, not many people know this. Having read Kathleen Cox's article it occurred to me that some of your readers might be interested in taking a training course in the teaching of lip-reading to adults with an acquired hearing loss.

The training courses are validated by the Royal Society of Arts. Lip-reading teachers usually work part-time in Adult Education Centres or hospitals, and find it a very satisfying and worthwhile job. Information about the training courses available can be obtained from David Beeching,



Bills and pieces: training in danger of fragmentation

Wants and needs

Sir - It is difficult for higher education institutions to present an unbiased argument for full-time award-bearing INSET provision as they can (quite rightly) be accused of promoting their own self-interests. However, Alan Evans, in the article "The Right to Choose", has done it admirably for us.

The implicit, if not explicit, understanding contained within Circular 6/86 was that there should continue to be a balanced programme of in-service activities. A diet of part-time and/or short courses is not sufficient, valuable though that kind of provision is.

Unless there is adequate provision of longer full-time courses, Eric Hoyle's idea of an "extended professional" teacher able to see his/her day-to-day classroom work in a much wider perspective will remain a pipedream.

WOODKINGDON
Woodbank In-Service and Conference Centre
Edge Hill College of Higher Education
Ormskirk
Lancs

Heads Association, nothing - probably again lost in the corridors of power.

Now, keep this disastrous disarray in mind. Ignore Elizabeth House and Downing Street. In Parliament Street, there lives an institution called the Treasury. It is monolithic, monopolistic and powerful but experience has shown that it can be influenced by equally monolithic and monopolistic and powerful forces.

There have been four attempts in this century to form an all-embracing teachers' council giving self-government to the profession. The reasons for failure are well enough documented but the scenario is much changed even since Edward Short's proposals in 1970.

If teachers are not to continue the sick joke of the public sector and its maintenance of status of education it is to become increasingly infirm, there must have self-government conferred: selection, training, entry and so on.

We must have our own Law Society or General Medical Council, and there can be no other way out of our present impotence in negotiation. Anybody sympathetic? If s. I would like to hear from you.

JIM COX
Headteacher
North Osselt High School
Givthorpe Lane
Osselt
West Yorkshire

7b Grosvenor Crescent, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN38 0BX.

Readers who have a hearing loss themselves and would like details of lip-reading classes in their area should write to the Information Officer, The Association of Teachers of Lip-reading to Adults, Mrs Jenny Harris, The Post Office, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire GL2 7BL.

GAIL GRIFFITHS
Vice-Chairman
Association of Teachers of Lipreading to Adults
14 Denbigh Road
London W11

with one for a period. This is a better kind of competition, for the first leaves some schools poverty-stricken in thought and in practice, and permits others like a somewhat selfish pride in their own success.

What our purpose requires is a co-operative competition and a professional sharing.

TREVOR JAGGAR
Friends House
Euston Road London NW1

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Parental choice

Sir - The article, "Machiavelli suspected at work in county hall" (TES, October 24), struck a chord here in Shropshire. Currently, the working party set up by the council is proposing to close an over-subscribed level one comprehensive school in Telford while other less popular schools, with empty classrooms, are being kept open.

Erroll Wood School in Wellington, like several other Shropshire schools which are being kept open is a four-form entry school. Each year it has more first preferences within the Telford parental preference system than it can take. In 1986, even after it had been first named for closure, it attracted 146 choices for 120 places.

On parental preferences over the past five years, it would have had 726 pupils, not counting those in the SLD unit and those who are turned away during the course of the year because the school is full. It is successful and popular with parents, but does not share the same kind of political support that other schools can command from local councillors in the Labour Party.

If Shropshire does go ahead with its plans to axe an over-subscribed school, while others in Labour constituencies are kept open although they are severely under-subscribed, then many people here will wait with interest to see how Kenneth Baker responds. We know the arguments of the Audit Commission and the minister about saving money by closing surplus places, but it must matter which schools are closed.

If it comes to an appeal, we shall be asking the Secretary of State to match his comments about keeping popular schools open with positive action.

CYRIL PLANT
Chairman of the PTA committee
Erroll Wood School
Wellington, Shropshire

'Selling' policy

Sir - In the Comment section of your October 17 edition you refer to remarks made by Mr David Hart of the National Association of Head Teachers. He has stressed the necessity for i.e.s to "sell" more effectively the reorganization of schools, in terms of both money and consultation.

If Harrow Borough Council had taken the trouble to keep schools fully informed as to its plans for primary education and pursued a genuine process of consultation, then perhaps there would not be the present discontent among parents, teachers and governors in some schools.

It is interesting to note that the statutory period of consultation should begin after the publication of notices outside the schools and in the press. In Harrow, 12 first and middle schools are to be amalgamated and notices are to be published any day now and yet an officer of the council has been heard to state that the period of consultation is already over. I would seem that official consultation was never intended to be genuine if it was a foregone conclusion that amalgamations would go ahead regardless.

PAM ROBSON
Teacher/Governor
14 Bloomsbury Court
Moss Lane
Pinner
Middlesex

Not with a bang

Sir - Your Lingo contributor Sue Lloyd (TES, October 31) asks who coined the expression "Big Bang". The recent financial "Big Bang" is at least the third to be so designated. In the 1950s there were two other notable "Big Bangs": one was the theory in cosmology that the universe originated as the result of a cataclysmic explosion, and the other was just the opposite, as the term for a nuclear explosion which could destroy the world.

With the first of these still a theory, and the second mercifully yet unrealized, the financial Big Bang is thus the only one to have been materialized (given an "initial" accompanying jolt).

ADRIAN ROOM
173 The Causeway
Stanfield
Hants

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ADRIAN ROOM
173 The Causeway
Stanfield
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Oh hear this, Professor O'Hear



GCSE puts greater emphasis on practical and oral work

Sir - Professor Anthony O'Hear is right to be concerned about public policy in education. He could not, however, be more wrong in his attacks on the GCSE which you highlighted in your report (TES, October 31) of his address to the philosophy conference at Queen's University, Belfast.

The GCSE, with its commitment of requiring evidence (in a variety of forms) of real understanding of a subject as the basis of the assessment of all children, does not enshrine any kind of "instant studies" approach.

The three key mechanisms of the GCSE, the general, subject and grade criteria, coupled with the shift from negative to positive assessment, are designed to ensure that all pupils who follow the course are given the fullest possible access to understanding the concepts, skills and knowledge of the subject.

As a deputy head responsible for the curriculum in an inner-city community comprehensive, and as the chief examiner for the Northern Examining Association's GCSE syllabus B in English, I am able to see both ends of this process.

Within school, we are concentrating resources on fewer subjects, taught in well-structured core courses that stretch and support all pupils in gaining understanding, practical experience and a sound knowledge of those subjects.

Across the country, in English, we are now requiring that all children are taught to develop their ability in

writing and talking to argue and inform as well as to express and create and to respond with understanding and appreciation to literary and non-literary texts.

Left to themselves, within a more pluralistic examination system, many schools simply have not asked their pupils to attempt this full range of

development of their language.

Yet we know from long-standing work on GCSE pilot schemes in English that, when these demands are made, children respond and develop.

Those of us committed to teaching in state schools, and to developing the GCSE, share Professor O'Hear's concern to offer our pupils a "human

education" which will help them resist "manipulation by ideology and advertisement". Perhaps, if he knew more of what we actually do, he would be less ready to dismiss the efforts of so many teachers and, indeed, their pupils.

Certainly, the pupils of my school would tell him that a greater emphasis on practical and oral work and assessment by coursework has not only motivated them and increased their interest in, and understanding of, the subjects they are studying.

Seeing them learning, and hearing them reflect on their own lives and education, may also lead Professor O'Hear to give a more critical analysis to the transmission model of teaching and the monocultural view of history and art which, together, underpin his views.

There are, of course, many fine schools in Bradford which, I am sure, be pleased to show a local professor that their implementation of the GCSE is far from "flawed and dishonest".

If, however, my brother would prefer to keep the argument in the family, he would be welcome to join in the learning at my school.

PHILIP O'HEAR
Deputy headteacher (Curriculum)
Gladesmore Community School
Gladesmore Road
Tottenham
London N15

Try TVEI first

Sir - Mike Leach's prediction (TES, October 31) that the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative will fail does not lead me to the conclusion that government legislation is the way to ensure its success.

Mr Leach does not explain the structure of his enabling educational framework, but it would presumably avoid the tendency to restrictive practices that we have had to put up with from GCSE.

As one whose Mode 3 GCSE has been rejected, I share his condemnation of the exam boards, but I am led to wonder why many TVEI working groups have spent so much time refining their own GCSE exams rather than modifying teaching styles and objectives. If the exam boards have a grip of the curriculum it is because they have so many votes among the teachers themselves.

It is interesting to note that the statutory period of consultation should begin after the publication of notices outside the schools and in the press. In Harrow, 12 first and middle schools are to be amalgamated and notices are to be published any day now and yet an officer of the council has been heard to state that the period of consultation is already over. I would seem that official consultation was never intended to be genuine if it was a foregone conclusion that amalgamations would go ahead regardless.

PAM ROBSON
Teacher/Governor
14 Bloomsbury Court
Moss Lane
Pinner
Middlesex

Curriculum-led

Sir - It has become an accepted fact of life amongst those involved in the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative that there has yet to appear an article in the national press, or programme on television, about TVEI that is completely correct.

In view of this it is disturbing, though not entirely surprising, to see the TES continuing the trend. I refer to Jeremy Sutcliffe's article (October 10), in which he categorized TVEI alongside BTEC as a vocational qualification.

To put the record straight, TVEI is not a qualification at all, but a curriculum development project that, among other things, aims to increase pupils' level of achievement and also develop personal skills such as problem solving, enterprise and initiative.

The difference between TVEI and non-TVEI courses lies not with the certificate itself, which is still mainly GCSE at 16-plus, but with the more relevant and practical content of the courses, the way in which the courses are taught and the supportive activities such as curriculum-led work experience, residentials and profiling.

I F WILSON
TVEI project director
London Borough of Bexley
Bexleyheath
Kent

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Leavers' records

Sir - In her account of the recent Joint Matriculation Board annual conference, Sue Surkes could devote only a few lines to records of achievement (TES, October 24).

I was a little surprised to find myself quoted as having told the conference that the DES should "tend carefully" around any deadline for the general introduction of records of achievement for all school-leavers.

While there can be no argument for the introduction of records in schools which are unprepared, I did in fact suggest that there are other more immediate ways of meeting the concern of teachers who are not directly involved in pilot schemes for records of achievement.

One way is to ensure that information is made widely available. A purpose of the conference was to inform

teachers of the practical experience of pilot schools, which (as the DES notes in the 1984 Statement of Policy) will cast light on how best to introduce records of achievement.

Another, as Sue Surkes' report indicates briefly, is to encourage schools which are showing interest in introducing records to use this experience in developing their own approaches in a systematic way.

The work of the schools in the northern pilot schemes is already proving to be of interest and value to others.

Information on the development programme of the Northern Partnership Records of Achievement can be obtained from the Secretary to one of the Boards of the Northern Examining Association.

A M SPENCER
Senior research associate
Joint Matriculation Board
Manchester M15

Courses

KINGSTON POLYTECHNIC
FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Applications are invited for the following part-time course for serving teachers.

MED

January entry. This new course has been designed for experienced teachers who are already in or seeking posts with responsibility. Requires attendance on two evenings a week in the first year, reducing to one in subsequent years.

BED HONS

January entry. Designed to assist teachers in the development of professional expertise. Application forms and further information are available from Administrative Officer, Kingston Polytechnic, Glypt Hill Centre, Kingston Hill, Kingston upon Thames KT2 7LB. Tel: 01-549 1141. (0564)

DEGREES & GCE

Guided home-study for: UNIVERSITY OF LONDON BSc, Econ., LL.B., BA, BD, Dip Ed. UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK MBA ALSO GCE & professional exams Free prospectus: The Registrar, Dept. BBS, Walsley Hall, Oxford OX2 6PE. Tel: (0865) 52200 (24 hrs.)

GCE JUNE 1987?

Intensive tutorial courses commence January 1987. Applications also invited for 'EASTER REVISION COURSE' Prospectus: Brown & Brown Tutorial College, 20 Warrborough Road, Oxford. Tel: Oxford (0865) 68311 or 513738

FREE VISIT BEAUMONT COMPUTER CAMP

FREEPOST Kingswood Centre, Kingswood, Bristol, G5 8BB

DAVID SHAW, 5 Bevington Road, Beckenham

DAVID SHAW, 5 Bevington Road, Beckenham

DAVID SHAW, 5 Bevington Road, Beckenham

FEATURES

As one who has spent the past decade in the almost totally female-dominated field of early childhood education, I feel the time has come to speak out against the one-sided and increasingly barren feminist litany on sexism in education. I considered myself a feminist from the late 1950s, before most of my peers had even heard of the word. Yet I find the current feminist rhetoric on women in education shallow, tiresome, and wildly out of touch with the reality that I encountered as a male, both as a child and as a teacher, in the school system.

Sexism in early childhood education is alive and rampant. But it is most decidedly a two-way street, often directed against male children and their interests (which it throttles), against the early education system (which it trivializes), and ultimately against the women who run the system (by ensuring that they will not be taken seriously, because no self-respecting male would choose to work in the narrow terms in which it is now constituted). Sexism in early education is more than a matter of "women and children"; it is an affront to our common humanity and to how we can enrich each other as male and female, children and adults.

When a child comes into a typical kindergarten, nursery or infant class, what will she or he experience? Probably, a room which is orderly, in which there is a place for everything and everything in its place. Even the notice boards will have carefully marked borders and large explicit figures. The pictures, colour and lighting of the room will be gentle, muted and subdued. Pictures or murals will be pastoral: of plants or domestic "cuddly" animals, smiling children, or families in familiar situations.

The activity centres will always include a book corner, a "Wendy house", a painting area, sand, water and manipulables, along with table games for numbers, colours and shapes. There may also be a "physical" area with mats and slide, a music corner, and possibly a work bench and tools. These are apt to be set out for a short time and then withdrawn (allegedly because most teachers are unwilling to leave them out unsupervised, more likely because of the noise they produce). The floor plan is generally laid out so that no areas, nooks, corners or hideaway spaces cannot readily be seen into.

The programme fits the protective environment. Stories and poems will be mostly in familiar settings: families like the child's own (with the token non-whites for multiculturalism); children who have bad days and birthdays, and sometimes other surprises; or animals who dress and talk like people. If fairy tales are presented, they will be the "tame" ones; even the first two little pigs, since the 1950s, escape the wolf by running to shelter with their brick-building brother. The songs and games will likewise be tame and predictable, with a premium on smallness and "cuteness", like "I'm a little teapot". "Eensy-weensy spider", "Little sandy-boys" and "Miss Polly had a dolly".

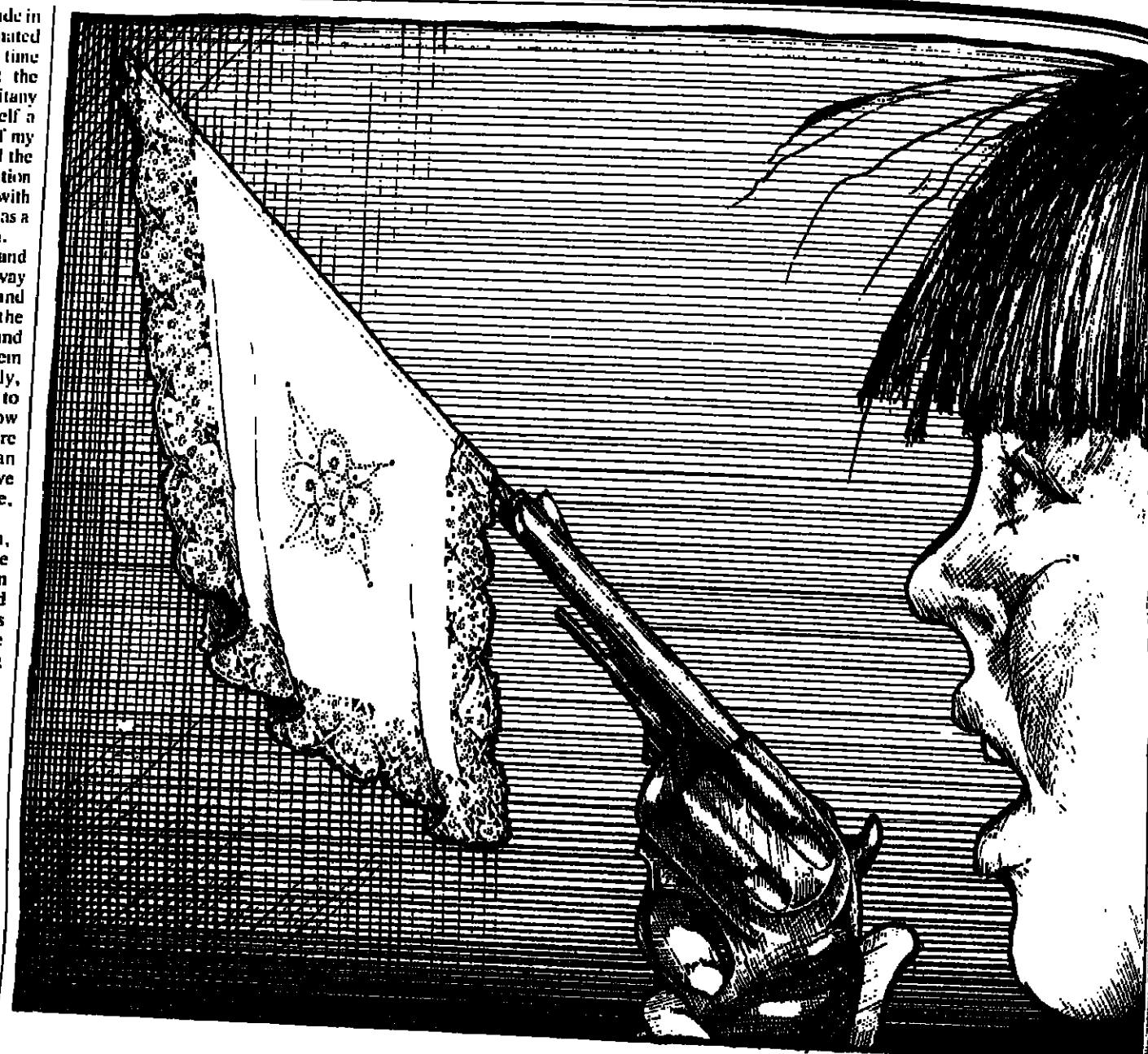
Now what we have just described is the safe and secure, sterile and stultifying, bland and boring environment inhabited by many young children at the very time when their minds are most flexible, their senses most acute, and the imaginations most unfettered. What is conspicuously absent is the element of adventure, challenge of limits, exploration and risk-taking for children of both sexes.

Near the end of her life, anthropologist Margaret Mead decried the disappearance of the frontier as depriving the male of the species of an outlet for his "exploratory instinct". Risk-taking may or may not be a more inherently male than female activity, and I do not intend to join that argument here. What I think will pass undisputed is that a majority of those persons (almost exclusively women) who opt to enter early childhood education will rank much higher on a scale of nurturing and domesticity than on one of adventurousness and inquisitiveness in their interests and orientation. This attitude is reinforced by feminists who seek to re-direct their ambitious sisters away from "traditionally female" occupations.

The result is to entrench the stereotype of early education as "female" in the child's view and, for many young boys and girls, "boring" and hardly "where the action is". At the teacher recruitment level, it induces a similar view, and the legendary "Mickey Mouse", cut-and-paste teachers' college courses are deterrents that few males would endure in order to qualify.

The existence of separate departments of Early Childhood Education within the teacher training system contributes to the sexist imbalance. Originally these were necessary to ensure an integrated child-centred basis for curriculum in the early years, as opposed to the "content-centred" approach deriving from specialists in the various subject disciplines.

Unfortunately, the very success of this consciousness-raising group has often made it resistant to further innovation. Males (and females) who may innately have a child-centred orienta-



The plight of the token male

David Watts finds female chauvinism rampant in early childhood education

tion but advocate a more intellectually venturesome approach are likely to be stigmatized as "out of touch with early education philosophy", or "lacking in experience in the real needs of young children". Even after four years special training and ten years experience, I still encounter this attitude from some early childhood "experts". I have no doubt that such a censorious approach is much more daunting to newcomers or would-be candidates.

If a male does endure the screening and training for early childhood education and ultimately finds himself in a nursery, kindergarten or infant setting, he must be prepared for a number of female sexist stereotypes. These attitudes are often equally inimical to women, but those who yield them do not seem to realize that. For instance, the man who was warned against being too intellectual with young children during his training and practice teaching will, if he proves a

successful innovator once in the field, encounter comments like "With your brains or talent, what are you doing in early childhood education?" This recalls a corresponding stereotype of the woman working in an all-male occupation: "With your body, what are you working in a place like this for?" Or "Don't you want to have a family?"

Since sexist stereotypes are unlikely to be recognized as such unless one has actually "been there", I have set out (see below) some female clichés alongside of the corresponding male ones. Each of these I have encountered at some time or other in my 10 years in the no-man's-land of early education.

Now, before some of my colleagues start to react defensively, let us try to view the situation with a measure of realism and humour. Stereotypes exist because they reflect a measure of truth; we can no more do without them than we could abolish descriptive adjectives such as

tall/short, young/old, silly/serious from our language. The problem arises when we start to use them as a put-down that closes off possibilities of opportunities for relating.

Our approach to dealing with sexist stereotypes in early education is therefore not to be found in some new militancy, or in seeking to formulate new non-sexist stereotypes that become as condescending and caricatured as the ones they purport to replace. Rather it must lie in a continuing curiosity that refuses to be content with categorical formulations, that continues to "play" with language and ideas, and looks beyond them. We must learn to value each other in our differences, whether those differences appear to reflect group characteristics or appear to be purely idiosyncratic.

To redress sexism in early education we must first work for a more balanced representation among the adults who work with young children. This means there should be males (in the plural, please; it's pretty lonely being a token) on the teaching staff of every primary, infant and nursery school. Where there is a limited male presence in a school already, an effort must be made to share him with all ages and both sexes (not just boys' PE, please) around the school. To this end we must also increase the number of team-work situations in early education, including greater use of paraprofessionals, visiting teachers and parent volunteers. This will bring many benefits besides the male-female balance.

Next, we must work for a closer integration of theory, research and teaching practice. Some of the most significant findings in child development research have come from parents and teachers like Jean Piaget, Susan Isaacs and Melanie Klein, observing and interacting with their own children on a day-by-day basis. Would-be academics in child development should be required to work at least half-time in the classroom throughout the duration of their research. This would recognize the innate competence and advanced position of the early childhood teacher as a contributor to educational research. And it would serve as an incentive to attract into early education men and women interested in pioneering and innovative persons who will regard teaching as an avenue of exploration rather than as an occupation. Higher training students could study more

Stereotypes of the female

- 1 "Nice to have a woman on the board (to type minutes, make coffee, etc.)."
- 2 "You hire a female administrator, and if she's married, she gets pregnant!"
- 3 "If we take on a woman in the shop, we'll need to hire another toilet - for her own protection."
- 4 "A woman administrator? I think every firm should have one."
- 5 "I hear we're getting a woman boss; is she good-looking/well-better?"
- 6 "Women are too emotional to function at high levels of decision-making."
- 7 "You give her an objective problem, and she wants to personalize it."
- 8 "I don't think she's tough enough to take the heat."
- 9 "If she is a good boss, she must have a good masculine figure, like a man."

Stereotypes of the male

- 1 "Nice to have a man around the nursery (to lift heavy boxes, put up shelves)."
- 2 "You take on a man in early ed., and if he's ambitious, he gets promoted and moves on."
- 3 "A male nursery teacher needs a female assistant to help with toiletting the girls."
- 4 "Every school should have a male for a father figure."
- 5 "I don't know what they say, but I do know they're right. Men treat me as an equal."
- 6 "Men are too abstract to understand intuitively the needs/wishes of small children."
- 7 "Men are pretty impractical when faced with children's nappies, bottles, etc."
- 8 "If he's a good teacher, he must have a good masculine figure, like a man."
- 9 "If he's a good teacher, he must have a good masculine figure, like a man."

FEATURES

Something remarkable appears to be happening at Carlton-Bolling School in Bradford. For a tough, inner-city school, with more than half its pupils Asian, and in an area where unemployment and deprivation are rife, it has confounded all expectations. Academic results have risen; discipline has improved; and attendance at parents' evenings has doubled; all in four years.

Those are only the changes on the outside, the sort that impress the traditionalists. The internal revolution, which began when the head, Mervyn Flecknoe, arrived four years ago, goes far deeper. The number of teaching periods has been halved, every pupil has a weekly tutorial session, and keeps the same tutor for three years, most teachers teach in their own rooms, virtually half the staff are women, and women are getting promotion.

Even more remarkable is the way access to learning has been thrown open to the community. Adults are sitting alongside sixth-formers, taking art and typing courses and this autumn the school packed its first adult student off to university.

These changes came at the end of a decade of upheaval. Carlton-Bolling was formed by the amalgamation of two former single-sex grammar schools, in a new building with a commanding view over Bradford city centre. The comprehensive reorganization accelerated the change from predominantly white schools to a multiracial school. Six out of ten pupils are now Asian.

The school's biggest challenges are set by its multiracial mix, and two other factors, poverty and unemployment. Of its 1,400 pupils, more than 800 are receiving free school meals. Unemployment in Bradford is running at 15.3 per cent, but is much higher in the community served by the school. One in four white children who leave Carlton-Bolling at 16 go into a job, compared with one in eight black children.

Not surprisingly, equal opportunities for black and white alike, and for academic and non-academic, figure large in the school's policy. The school handbook sets out a firm policy on racism. It includes a ban on books which give an unfavourable view of racial groups and encourages racial tolerance. Although jewellery is banned, the Kara and Tawiz, important traditions in many Asian communities, are encouraged, and girls are allowed to wear trousers.

Since 1982, A level successes have increased from 50 to 60 per cent. Nearly two A levels are passed on average by each A level candidate. The sixth form has a healthy 220 students, representing a stay-on rate far higher than before. It is too early to say whether this year's O level and CSE results show any significant improvement, but they are up on previous years.

That is only one outcome. It is far more significant that children leave having enjoyed learning, and if they get into a job or a career path which is the right one for them, that is more important than exam results," Mervyn Flecknoe said. "Most employers take students on the school's estimate anyway before the exam results come out. I regard them as a waste of public money."

For a head to be so dismissive of what so many regard as all important, those other "outcomes" deserve attention.

In 1982, the school's day was dominated by the sound of the bell and was run with military precision. It was not unusual for one class to be taught during the week by 17 teachers. So in 1983, a curriculum survey, which involved observing one lesson of each member of staff over a three-week period, was organized.

The results indicated each lesson change occupied 9.6 minutes between work ending in one lesson and beginning in the next. There were six periods a day each lasting 50 minutes. By cutting out the three lesson changes which did not coincide with break or lunchtime, nearly 30 minutes were saved, reducing the opportunity for crowded corridors, visits to lockers, trodding on people's toes and the raising of hackles and blood pressure.

A move to a three-lesson day enabled break and morning assembly to be extended by five minutes each, and the end of the teaching day was moved from 3.20pm to 3pm, leaving the learning time of four-and-a-half hours unaltered. Lessons could be planned which required longer periods. Staff could plan three good, varied lessons a day and spend less time calling for order.

The change brought other benefits. Junior staff could now work exclusively in the room where their tutor group registered. Less movement meant better organization and control of resources.

The next step was to try to reduce the number of teachers teaching each student. Third year geography, history and RE were grouped into humanities; physics, chemistry and biology into science, and so on. In the fourth and fifth years, banking was replaced by a basic six subject core curriculum. By allowing more time per subject it became possible to introduce more field work and higher training students could study more



More can be demanded of pupils when they don't feel pushed around.

Rise and shine

Jeremy Sutcliffe investigates the remarkable turnaround of a tough, inner-city school which puts the emphasis on relationships

than six subjects by tackling two related subjects in the time allowed for one. Students were more often taught with other members of their own tutor group.

All those changes made better relationships possible and increased ties of loyalty between staff and students. "It is very difficult to deny a relationship. Once it has been formed it will stick through thick and thin, and it will make discipline so much easier. This would normally be classed as a tough inner-city school. But here you will see kids regularly open doors for staff - that's part of the relationship that has built up and which has survived all the way through the industrial action," said Mervyn Flecknoe.

In 1984, a second survey looked at the activity involved in learning. As a result lessons have moved away from the passive use of worksheets towards ways which involve students in their studies. Two computer-aided learning laboratories have been set up. Fieldwork, community service, visits and guest speakers have all benefited from the longer 90-minute periods.

Another development was the extension of time tutors had with their tutor groups. A tutorial session was introduced after break on Wednesday for all students. Into this the school introduced its own record of personal achievement: a smart A5 ring-binder with card pages for the student to record activities, attendance, lifestyle and other items. Each subject report was printed on a separate card, allowing more space

for both teachers and pupils to comment. The one and only copy of these reports was kept in school. If parents wished to see them, they had to visit the school and talk to the teachers.

To make this easier parents' evenings, previously held from 7.30pm onwards, were switched to between 4pm and 7pm. Instead of being given expenses to go away and return in the evening, staff were given tea at the school. For the teachers it meant they got the evening off.

Reaction to the changes from parents was spectacular. Attendance rose from 30 to 70 per cent. "Parents were genuinely delighted to read about their children, and children were equally proud to display their records of achievement. Conversations with tutors were no longer one-sided analyses of "what was wrong", but began with mutual understanding of the child and respect for his or her achievements," says Mervyn Flecknoe.

For school-leavers, a Carlton-Bolling graduation certificate was introduced, containing a statement about each student's positive achievements, attendance and punctuality.

The school also abolished corporal punishment: instead of the cane, a staged system of suspension was introduced, from two days to two weeks, preceded by a formal warning which was recorded and notified to parents. Whereas a high proportion of students failed to be put off by the cane, according to Mervyn Flecknoe, more than half the children who receive formal warnings never

get back into the punishment book.

"We have never actually had to dismiss anyone. In an authority with a deprivation level and unemployment level such as Bradford, you are going to get a criminal pattern of behaviour. Given those horrific problems we face we do fantastically well."

"Relationships, quality of staff, organization of periods, all add up to good behaviour and discipline. We do not push students around. They feel cared for. That means we feel more able to demand a lot more from them in terms of behaviour and workload."

Equal opportunities play an important part in building up that trust. The school's anti-racism involves continuous appraisal by all faculties of the content and style of teaching to avoid bias. One member of staff is responsible for co-ordinating a multicultural working party with a teacher from each faculty.

The school has also tried to improve the self-esteem and working conditions of girls. It does this by staff appointments (when in doubt, a woman teacher gets the job), and by a gender awareness course as part of the tutorial curriculum. It is also moving towards individual and group work which respects the right of girls to sit and work separately.

The results of the appointments policy means that nearly half the staff are now women, and half of the most senior staff are women. The aim is to arrive at a staff which is half women, with an equal share in all the decisions. The majority of Scale 1 posts are still held by women, while more men are on Scales 2 and 3. Mervyn Flecknoe hopes that imbalance will change.

"We have worked hard on the gender problem. I feel that management jobs done by women are in general different to those done by men. There is a feminine style, generally speaking, and it's important that that should be well represented in a school because half of the students are girls. Girls look at the school and they see women cleaners run by a man caretaker, and women teachers run by a male head of faculty. That is something we are trying to change."

The push for equal rights gained momentum after a third curriculum survey which looked at conversations between teachers and students, analysing praise, remediation, criticism and attention-seeking. It discovered a big difference in the way formal and informal lessons were conducted. In every situation where individual or group work predominated, girls asked for, and got, as much attention as boys. Where teachers led classes from the front, however, they could not avoid boys dominating. Overall, the survey found, boys received 40 per cent more praise than girls and they were 30 per cent more likely to call attention to themselves.

Perhaps the most visible change in the school regime is in the sixth form, where 70 adults, mostly mothers, this year enrolled for academic and vocational courses. Opening up the school to the community started three years ago when a mother-and-toddler group needed an alternative meeting place. The invitation had an educational purpose: it was a bold and radical attempt to increase personal achievement, using empty space in the school not only to give adults a second chance to get on the education ladder, but to spur on youngsters. It has meant students have to compete with adults, and can learn from their much wider experience of the real world. There are also benefits from the extra which has been provided for the sole use of the adult students.

Mervyn Flecknoe overheard two girls as they emerged from an A level history class. One asked: "How did you get on with that essay?" The other replied: "I thought I'd done all right but that woman had been to the library!"

The head sets great store in listening to his staff. "Nearly all the ideas that have failed have been my ideas," Mervyn Flecknoe claims. He believes there is a vast amount of untapped talent in many schools because too often heads do not listen.

But it is not just the staff. "Our changes stem from a belief that children have enormous capabilities. The aim is to tap those capabilities by producing children who enjoy learning, who respect other people and have fun in the process," he said.

"We spend in Bradford half of what independent schools in the area spend on each student and we provide a superior education. That is done purely by the sweat of the teachers. The difficulty is that state education is funded and designed to be second rate. It is almost designed as if private education is intended to be superior. When there are riots in the inner cities people turn round and say: 'It's the schools who do not teach discipline. Instead of saying, isn't it remarkable that these youngsters go to school every day and sit and learn and behave themselves, and mustn't teachers be wonderful people?'"

"If independent schools did not exist and if policy-makers had to send their children to state schools then funding would improve and standards would improve. Given that extra funding is not going to be given, we're going to have to



The three-lesson day encourages more field work and less passive learning.

Maggie's favourite entrepreneur

by Ray Hammond

A few weeks ago a short, balding, red-haired man scurried along the aisles of the Personal Computer Show carrying several plastic carrier bags full of sales literature. Every so often he would stop at a display to add another catalogue to his collection. He was recognized by most of the young attendees at the Olympia exhibition, but no one stopped him, no one spoke to him.

Two years ago at the same show Sir Clive Sinclair could not step into the public part of the exhibition without a retinue of aides to protect him from the adulation of the market he single-handedly created. Young computer fans rushed for autographs or tried to demand answers to complex technical problems. Alongside these children, hardened Fleet Street "doorsteppers" demanded to know when the next miracle Sinclair product would be launched.

The rise and fall of Sir Clive Sinclair has been widely reported but little understood and in a new book, *Sinclair and the "Sunrise" Technology* (Penguin £3.95), Ian Adamson and Richard Kennedy offer the first in-depth analysis of precisely why Margaret Thatcher's "favourite entrepreneur" crashed. Many, including these authors, would like to see the story as a metaphor for the present government's "blind" pursuit of monetarism, small-business capitalism and high-technology industry as the forces for a revival in the UK economy and a reduction in unemployment.

The authors of the new book make their beliefs clear in the Introduction: "Far from promoting the entrepreneur as a necessary good, the floundering career of Clive Sinclair offers valuable (if not especially encouraging) insights into the dangers of relying on small businessmen to resolve the evils of unemployment and inflation. It is not the solution to unemployment. It does not address the structural weakness of moribund capitalism."

The book is well-written and well researched but the authors fail to acknowledge fully their reliance on hindsight. This vintage point is the greatest weapon of the moral coward, of the pessimist, of the perennial critic doomed to comment on others' achievements and failures. In a just world, hindsight would be a luxury only allowable to peers of the subject who have proved themselves similarly capable.

But the publication of the book and its detailed analysis of the boom-bust years of the home-computer market provides an excellent opportunity

to reflect on what has actually happened to Britain's so-called "sunrise" industries and, in particular, the personal computer market.

By launching an under-£100 home computer in 1980, Clive Sinclair personally forced Britain to the forefront of personal computing. Today his achievement still stands: Britain has more personal computers per head than any other country in the world and the price/power ratio of personal computers (including business machines) is 50 per cent lower in Britain than in any other developed country. This is solely due to the public perception of computer power which Sinclair created.

The authors of the new book present him as an over-confident maverick with a major flaw in his understanding of technology. They suggest he is an opportunist, a high-energy motivator and an absurd optimist. From personal knowledge I can confirm that most of these statements are true, but it is important to realize that he crashed only after he had achieved his philosophical goal. He had placed inexpensive computer power in the hands of the masses and forced the rest of the world market to do likewise. Whether he subsequently remained in profit, and whether subsequent ventures succeeded or failed, that contribution alone is worth more than a knight's title, more than a personal fortune and certainly demands greater respect than is offered.

Today the market has fallen into the hands of men like Alan Sugar of Amstrad. Sugar's salesmanship and management skills are of a very high order, but he is on record as saying that he will never innovate, preferring to follow where others have pioneered, and he seems to have few philosophical goals beyond his balance sheet.

Today Britain enjoys the prospect of IBM-compatible business computers being sold at below £500. Amstrad has led the way in this pricing level (the technology they use is four years old) and other manufacturers are being forced to follow. Software costs are tumbling to match the expectations of the thousands of new computer buyers who are now being tempted to buy "serious" business machines.

All of this has become possible because Clive Sinclair conditioned the public to think that cheap computers are not only possible but desirable. Critics rightly point out that many Sinclair products were unreliable, that very cheap before they could do anything useful and that finally, Sinclair's personal decision to launch the

QL micro in 1984 before it was ready, was an almost fraudulent act by a company seeking to boost cash reserves before a critical end-of-year audit.

Much of this is true and the vicious weapon of hindsight is now revealing management failures and an ego-driven vision which, when presented without full credit for achievements, seems almost messianic in quality.

But as most historians finally learn, the "cock-up" theory of history is the only plausible view and no one should be surprised that Clive Sinclair, like the rest of us, has feet of clay.

He finally shattered himself when he attempted to pursue another philosophical aim (not a solely

commercial one) and provide the mass elect with cheap electric transport. The CS electric trike might have been successful, but it was launched in the worst summer of a decade (a disaster for an open machine) and a movement which, like home computers, might have started as a fad and gone on to revolutionize transport was still-born. This was unlucky.

"It is better to have tried and failed than never to have tried at all" and one thing I can assure the authors of this acerbic post-mortem is that it will be other innovators with philosophical rather than commercial aims, whether working under capitalist or marxist conditions, who will finally provide society with whatever true advances can be achieved.

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William the Great

by Mary Cadogan

Richard Crompton's William constantly gripped that going to school was a waste of time: "It never gives us a chance to do anything great." Nevertheless, this juvenile desperado has achieved a quirky kind of greatness.

When he first bounded on to the literary scene in 1919, few people could have predicted that as far ahead as the 1980s children would still be savouring his anarchic adventures. His creator dreamed him up for some short stories in a ephemeral publication (the *Home Magazine*). She kept him going with reluctance, under pressure from her editor who quickly realized that William appealed not only to the adult readers for whom the stories were intended but to their offspring. When his exploits began to be published in book form (from 1922), and even after his name had become a synonym for scruffy, rumbustious and rebellious boyhood, Richard continued to regard him as at best her "potboiler" and at worst her "Frankenstein" monstrosity.

She had wanted to produce serious fiction for adults, but her 40 carefully written family-man novels failed to achieve distinction and were largely forgotten. Ironically, her throw-away

William books (including translations into 18 languages) have now notched up sales of over nine and a half million.

From childhood, Richard had been making up stories to amuse her younger brother Jack, who was later to become the first model for William. Writing, however, was at first a sideline to her foremost ambition of becoming a teacher. Inspired by her scholarly clergyman/schoolmaster father, she developed an early passion for scholarship and graduated in 1914. She taught classics at St. Elphin's Clergy Daughters' School from 1917 at the Bromley (Kent) High School for Girls.

She became a contributor to several magazines, and successfully combined teaching and writing until 1924 when, after an attack of polio myelitis, she became disabled. With a resilience that was later to declare that she had led "a much more interesting life" because of this, it marked a turning point in her life, forcing her to give up teaching and to concentrate on writing.

In the early Twenties, William, the anti-hero, was a welcome departure from the rather con-

mist boys and girls who had for so long been leading lights in juvenile fiction. It is easy to see why he caught on then, but surprising, perhaps, that since their reissue by Macmillan in 1983, the books — now far from being innovative — are pulling in new readers. William's escapades, firmly rooted in middle-class, between-the-ages English society, might well have seemed outmoded and unreal to present-day children. Also Richard's demanding and satirical style makes no concession to youthful limitations of vocabulary.

It seems that children still respond to the sheer gusto and hilarity of the plots, and to William's ability to get the better of petty or pompous grown-ups. They still respond to his gung-ho honesty, and his well-meaning attempts to be useful which so often comically misfire. ("That William... how did you think it was going to help anyone to say that Ethel had epilepsy and consumption?")

Richard Crompton, a lifelong member of the Church of England and a staunch Tory, produced stories which could be seen as a critique of conservative values, and whose appeal was to cross-wide social and generational gaps. William has developed over the years into more than a classics mistress's concept of childhood non-conformity: Richard's potboiler has become an archetype of the unbookish, adventurous outdoor boy.

By the time she came under Sir Charles Greville's "protection" she was only 16, but had already had a varied career. Ravishingly pretty, she had lived in the house of a

Beloved Emma: The Life of Lady Hamilton, by Flora Fraser. Weidenfeld and Nicholson £14.95. 0 297 78895 7.

To those with romantic memories of Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier in Korda's film, the sight of Lady Hamilton and Nelson walking in Palermo in 1799 would come as a shock. Lord Elgin, in October of that year, described Nelson thus: "He looks very old, has lost his upper teeth, scowl of one eye, and has a film coming over both of them." Nelson, as we know, was a small man whereas Emma was tall and more than voluptuous. Sir Gilbert Elliot wrote, "her person is nothing short of monstrous for its enormity and is growing every day."

Flora Fraser has produced a beautifully written, absorbing account of Emma's life from her impoverished childhood to the notoriety of her marriage to Sir William Hamilton and her affair with Nelson, and the wheel finally turning full circle, to the despair of a debtor's prison and a lonely death in Calais.

By the time she came under Sir Charles Greville's "protection" she was only 16, but had already had a varied career. Ravishingly pretty, she had lived in the house of a

well-known procuress, been the mistress of a young aristocrat and borne a child. The callous way in which Greville kept her for four years, winning her love and gratitude and then handing her over to his uncle, Sir William Hamilton, to further his own financial interests makes chilling reading.

Hamilton, Minister to the Crown in Naples, was a vulcanologist (he lived but a lava's flow from Vesuvius) and a noted collector. Over 30 years older than Emma he had met her first when in London to sell antiques. Luckily for the British Museum he persuaded the Duchess of Portland to buy the best item. The Duchess was, said Horace Walpole, "a simple woman, but perfectly sober and intoxicated only by empty vases". Walpole and Hamilton kept a not altogether friendly eye on one another's activities; in the 1770s Sir William trained his pet monkey to examine a work of art through a magnifying glass and to exclaim about uttering ecstatic squeaks.

In spite of some reservations about the wisdom of taking over his nephew's mistress, Sir William was to enjoy his new acquisition. The Neapolitan days are vividly described. The coarseness in Emma's manner was remarked on by Lady Elgin: "She is indeed a Whapper! and I think her manner very ugly" and probably stood her in good stead in the house of a

stead in the uninhibited climate of Italy. She was accepted by the court and, more surprisingly, by visiting English society. She sang, danced and performed the "Attitudes" which Hamilton taught her. Walpole (of course) has the last word of these: "Sir William's pantomime mistress... acts all the antique statues in an Indian shawl" and, five years later, "Sir W H has actually married his gallery of statues".

Then, with the war, came Nelson. Hamilton's idyll was over and in 1800 the ill-assorted trio returned to London where Emma gave birth to Nelson's child. Her husband was oblivious of the whole event, being aware only of her headaches and "foul stomach". Nelson was not only the only one with a blind eye.

The last years after both Hamilton and Nelson were dead were ones of extravagance and debt. Neglected by the government, who refused her the pension which Nelson wanted for her, Emma died of cirrhosis at the age of 51. But she was not forgotten. A hundred years after her death a plaque was put on the house where she died: "This Tablet is Erected by British Officers Serving in Calais In Memory of Lord Nelson's Last Request, 1818."

Jane Dorrell

Emma as Agrippina with the ashes of her son, Germanicus. Attributed to Benjamin West.

When the Bishop of Milan, some 10 centuries ago, advised Saint Augustine to "when in Rome do as the Romans do" he doubtless had no "multicultural" lobby to contend with. Today such advice is best given *sotto voce* lest it be wrongly construed as "ethnocentrism", "cultural elitism", "unconscious racism" or worse. Of course, the diversity of Milan's ethnic minorities in the 4th century bear little comparison with that of Britain's in the 20th; nevertheless, the scale of the phenomenon in its modern form no more leads necessarily to the multiculturalist philosophy than it did in Augustinian times. Or, to the extent that it does, it is to a multiculturalism which needs to be rather more closely defined than is usual.

The multicultural (loosely defined) case might be tested by asking of its advocates where they stand on, for example, arranged marriages. Clearly this practice, traditional in the Indian sub-continent, poses some awkward questions of principle for those, feminists particularly, who advocate, on the one hand, cultural tolerance while, on the other, greater personal freedom for women. Or, again, take the question of where lie the limits of legitimate parental authority. "Sparing the rod" is as much anathema to many West Indian parents as arranged marriages are to their English counterparts; yet if multiculturalism is to have any consistency Caribbean child-rearing customs, which include sometimes ferocious physical punishment, ought to be viewed through the benign eyes of cultural relativism.

The fact is that "multiculturalism" (and perhaps the ominous suffix provides the clue) is a messy and often inconsistent creed. Tolerance for the cultures of others, as the good Bishop realized, is not a moral absolute but is, rather, conditional on the ability of those cultures to be integrated into existing ways of doing things. It is therefore surprising, given their complexity and sensitivity, that the issues arising from cultural diversity have not, until now, been studied from the perspective of law, for not only does English law give expression to so much of what forms English tradition but also because common law, based on the wisdom of precedent and interpretation, is uniquely placed to arbitrate between English customs and the sometimes competing cultural practices of others.

In the Preface to his richly informative *English Law and Ethnic Minority Customs*, Sebastian Poulter asks "Should the ethnic minorities who have come to live here conform to the English ways or should they be free to continue to practice their own customs in this country? More specifically, should English law adapt its principles and rules to accommodate foreign customs or should new arrivals bear the burden of any adjustment?" To the extent that Dr Poulter supplies an answer to these questions he will satisfy those of a moderate liberal



When in Rome

David Dale on a new element in the race relations debate

persuasion. But legal prescription, though important, forms only a part of his book. The bulk of *English Law and Ethnic Minority Customs* is concerned with detailed analysis of those aspects of existing law which impinge on minority customs and discussion of the nature and practice of those customs in an English setting. The result is authoritative, always lucid and as objective as one is entitled to expect from a senior lecturer in law.

The span of the book is wide. Divided into general areas (education, religious observances, polygamy, marriage, divorce, parents and children, family patterns, employment and the criminal law), each chapter is subdivided into particular cultural practices (the chapter on education, to take one example, includes sections on bilingualism, uniform, dietary restrictions, denominational schools, religious and multicultural education). These are introduced with a description of the custom under consideration and followed by a balanced account of the policy considerations derived from its practice in this country. There follows an analysis of the relevant provisions of English law and each section concludes with an assessment of the scope for legal reform.

By way of illustration, consider how English law responds to the minority

customs cited above. In the case of corporal punishment, the law permits parents to inflict "moderate and reasonable" chastisement upon their children. The question then arises as to whether a foreign parent who is prosecuted for going beyond what English law considers to be "reasonable" can rely for his defence on the standards of punishment accepted as no less reasonable in his own native community. The issue was tested in 1969 when a West Indian father used just this argument when accused of assaulting his 12-year-old son while disciplining him. The man was found guilty and on appeal the Court laid down the following broad principle: "... the Court fully accepts that immigrants coming to this country may find initially that our ideas are different from those on which they have been brought up in regard to the methods and manner in which children are to be disciplined. There can be no doubt that once in this country, this country's laws must apply."

Clearly here (as with "scarification", the African practice of making facial scars on children to denote tribal identity) the Augustinian maxim applies. Rather less does it, however, to the practice of arranged marriages. In 1971 a 17-year-old Sikh girl was married in a registry office to a man who

she had not met before and whose name she did not know. Immediately after the ceremony, having very quickly formed the view that her new husband possessed neither the physical nor mental qualities assured to her by her parents, she petitioned for divorce on the grounds that she had not freely consented to the marriage but had felt bound to obey the traditional customs of her people. The Court of Appeal disagreed; in the absence of danger to "life, liberty or limb", it argued, there could be no question of the young woman having entered the arranged marriage under duress. Recently, however, there have been signs that the courts may be prepared to take a more relaxed view of what counts as duress. Rightly so in Dr Poulter's view, as he points out, "The dilemma posed by arranged marriages is to distinguish between proper and improper pressures imposed not by the other party to the marriage but by the petitioner's own family and the wider ethnic community. For our courts to uphold forced marriages under the misapprehension that they are giving effect to the respectable custom of arranged marriages would be a great mistake."

The moderate liberalism Poulter displays here is in line with that of most of his prescriptions for legal reform. Arguing that legal recognition should be afforded to many minority customs on grounds which include individual liberty and religious tolerance, he nevertheless subscribes to the Augustinian maxim at least to the extent that English "core values" are protected and that ethnic minorities are denied "unjustified" preferential treatment in law.

A review of this length can hardly succeed in conveying the range of Dr Poulter's subject matter, a range which includes issues as diverse as bridewealth, circumcision, dowry, burial practices, religious methods of animal slaughter and much else besides. In producing his carefully researched and excellently indexed book, Dr Poulter has made an important contribution to the study of race relations and from a perspective which has for too long been neglected. *English Law and Ethnic Minority Customs* will undoubtedly prove to be a valuable source of reference for a readership which should (pace its price which, for a 300-page paperback of even this quality, is excessive) extend beyond the confines of the legal profession.

* *English Law and Ethnic Minority Customs*, by Sebastian Poulter. Butterworth £29.95. 0 406 18000 8.

Indeed a Whapper

Beloved Emma: The Life of Lady Hamilton, by Flora Fraser. Weidenfeld and Nicholson £14.95. 0 297 78895 7.

To those with romantic memories of Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier in Korda's film, the sight of Lady Hamilton and Nelson walking in Palermo in 1799 would come as a shock. Lord Elgin, in October of that year, described Nelson thus: "He looks very old, has lost his upper teeth, scowl of one eye, and has a film coming over both of them." Nelson, as we know, was a small man whereas Emma was tall and more than voluptuous. Sir Gilbert Elliot wrote, "her person is nothing short of monstrous for its enormity and is growing every day."

Flora Fraser has produced a beautifully written, absorbing account of Emma's life from her impoverished childhood to the notoriety of her marriage to Sir William Hamilton and her affair with Nelson, and the wheel finally turning full circle, to the despair of a debtor's prison and a lonely death in Calais.

By the time she came under Sir Charles Greville's "protection" she was only 16, but had already had a varied career. Ravishingly pretty, she had lived in the house of a

well-known procuress, been the mistress of a young aristocrat and borne a child. The callous way in which Greville kept her for four years, winning her love and gratitude and then handing her over to his uncle, Sir William Hamilton, to further his own financial interests makes chilling reading.

Hamilton, Minister to the Crown in Naples, was a vulcanologist (he lived but a lava's flow from Vesuvius) and a noted collector. Over 30 years older than Emma he had met her first when in London to sell antiques. Luckily for the British Museum he persuaded the Duchess of Portland to buy the best item. The Duchess was, said Horace Walpole, "a simple woman, but perfectly sober and intoxicated only by empty vases". Walpole and Hamilton kept a not altogether friendly eye on one another's activities; in the 1770s Sir William trained his pet monkey to examine a work of art through a magnifying glass and to exclaim about uttering ecstatic squeaks.

In spite of some reservations about the wisdom of taking over his nephew's mistress, Sir William was to enjoy his new acquisition. The Neapolitan days are vividly described. The coarseness in Emma's manner was remarked on by Lady Elgin: "She is indeed a Whapper! and I think her manner very ugly" and probably stood her in good stead in the house of a

stead in the uninhibited climate of Italy. She was accepted by the court and, more surprisingly, by visiting English society. She sang, danced and performed the "Attitudes" which Hamilton taught her. Walpole (of course) has the last word of these: "Sir William's pantomime mistress... acts all the antique statues in an Indian shawl" and, five years later, "Sir W H has actually married his gallery of statues".

Then, with the war, came Nelson. Hamilton's idyll was over and in 1800 the ill-assorted trio returned to London where Emma gave birth to Nelson's child. Her husband was oblivious of the whole event, being aware only of her headaches and "foul stomach". Nelson was not only the only one with a blind eye.

The last years after both Hamilton and Nelson were dead were ones of extravagance and debt. Neglected by the government, who refused her the pension which Nelson wanted for her, Emma died of cirrhosis at the age of 51. But she was not forgotten. A hundred years after her death a plaque was put on the house where she died: "This Tablet is Erected by British Officers Serving in Calais In Memory of Lord Nelson's Last Request, 1818."

Jane Dorrell

Emma as Agrippina with the ashes of her son, Germanicus. Attributed to Benjamin West.



Richard Crompton in 1929

TES Schoolbook Award Authorial voices

Gerald Haigh reports on how the judges chose. Below, the winning author explains how he did it

Everyone knows what textbooks are. They are brown in colour, with bits of white showing where the spines are becoming detached, and they live in piles of 36. They have a hard life, being carried about by teachers who drop them accidentally and hurl them on purpose. Some teachers of legend could distribute three dozen textbooks around a room in 18 seconds, a display as dramatic as, and only marginally less lethal than, the firing of a Bofors gun.

This kind of scene may still be fairly common in some parts of our education system. Conventional wisdom and practice, though, especially in the junior sector, has come to regard the practice of sitting children in rows to study from identical class books as inefficient and outmoded. The very phrase "slavishly following the textbook" has become a cliché of inspectorial criticism.

Against this background, textbooks have changed in all manner of obvious ways, often enormously by improvements in technology. They are now almost universally colourful; they can be used in a variety of ways other than simply being worked through by a class; they make use of design and layout skills, and they are often supported by other resource material.

It is right that the TES should recognize the efforts of publishers to respond to the need for more flexible and more exciting classroom books, giving this award. It needs to be said, though, that this same drive away from the pile of brown books resulted in a difficult task for us: we had to find a winner. When does a textbook stop being a textbook, for example, and become an "information" book? And how do you judge in isolation a single book which is intended to be used as part of a wide-ranging multi-media set of resources?

In the end we found a way of making it all work. A textbook, it was decided, requires the continuing intervention of the teacher, where an information book may not. And whatever the place of book in a scheme, it still ought to be possible to make judgments about it. Let me not understate, however, either the difficulty which we had in applying criteria, or the subjective nature of the decisions which we made. Of the books which we considered to be textbooks, none were bad in the sense of actually harmful. Rather, though, were any of them good in the sense of very exciting.

Being asked to write a book is a tantalizing experience; an offer that's hard to refuse. Lured by a free lunch, I was talking to Professor David Waddington about communicating ideas in science. As adviser to Bell & Hyman, he was looking for a new idea for a science textbook - an original approach. Most textbooks, he said, were written by teachers for teachers, and plodded from point A to point B. Suppose I had to write a textbook for children aged 11-13, how would I tackle it?

"Easy," I said. "Write a series of little essays on things that were interesting - jam, roly-poly pudding, custard, paste, walnut shells... I don't expect it would take more than six weeks."

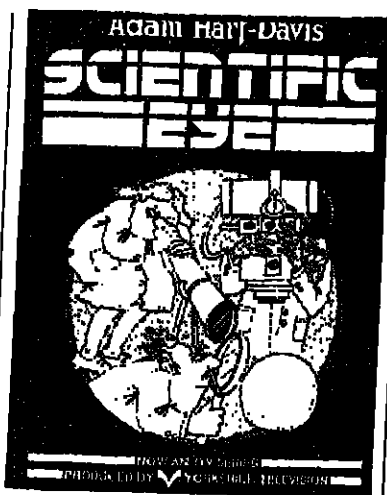
"Well," he said, "why don't you have a go?"

So I sat down at my battered old typewriter with a blank piece of paper and began to hammer out some material.

I had said I could write the book in six weeks; it took me ten years.

It was a long, slow, painful experience, much hampered to begin with by my terrible style. For, keen to impress my readers, whom I must have been regarding as a curious amalgam of publishers and teachers, I tried for weeks and weeks (and thousands and thousands of words) to be too clever, to embellish the stories with science and the science with stories, to insert witty little asides and subtle puns, and I made my sentences longer and longer.

Gradually, painfully, with patient help from the publishers, and a battery



**Schoolbook Award
Scientific Eye**
by Adam Hart-Davis
Bell & Hyman £3.95 and
£5.95

For some people the archetypal textbook is the maths book. We rather liked the Peak book which came from Nelson. It uses photographs helpfully, particularly when it comes to illustrating the use of calculators. And if one sort of traditional schoolbook is found in the maths lesson, what about English books? For many, including some of the judges, the phrase "English course book" is a no-no of theological dimensions, such as the merits of actual examples are beyond discussion. "The only good English Course Book is a dead one," you might say. The philosophical basis of this position is powerful, and the crimes committed by course books past, present, and undoubtedly future, may well be full and sufficient for eternal damnation. If, however, you feel that there are no grounds for condemnation of the genre, then the coursebook Everybody Writing programme may well commend itself to you as it did to some of the judges. It is a long way beyond the stilted and contrived exercises of so many other books, and its theoretical underpinning will satisfy most language teachers. Without doubt there are teachers who will be helped by this book to do some of the things which they feel they ought to be doing but



of teachers as advisers, a text began to emerge. Each time I sent off a chapter it would come back marked, like homework, 4/10 - Could do better. Each chapter went to at least three people, and there were times when their corrections were longer than the text. Some times I felt as though I had been writing one chapter for weeks.

Design by Geoff Wadley and drawings by Jane Cope combined to make the book look rather like *The BFG*. I like it best where the pictures take over completely, and the text seems almost to be incidental. The curious and photograph work for their living. When it was finally done, I felt that at least my scientific eye had been opened.

which they lack confidence to embark on without the help of a class book. At the same time, the fundamental problems of a course book are still there - the child writes because the book tells her to; there are still some arbitrary "rules". Remember, when you write a poem, start every line with a capital letter. (What will happen if you don't?) asks one judge.

Hodder & Stoughton's *Word Games*, by Sandy Brownjohn and Janet Whitaker, found slightly greater favour overall. Many teachers use Sandy Brownjohn's ideas in the classroom, and this book puts the child into more direct contact with them. There are many alphabets, spoonerisms, acrostics, anagrams, tall stories - all manner of devices for making words exciting and interesting. We all felt that a class using this book would be soundly involved in the exploration of language. The layout is attractive, the illustrations are amusing. Our reservations are to do with the intrusiveness of the author - "You might do this... You might do that..." A bit more relaxation and feeling of leaving it to the child might help. The choice of anthology material was not met with universal joy, either. "Depressingly chirpy" was one comment, and not everyone will approve of the inclusion of Kit Wright's stereotyping "Hugger Muggers".

Approval of Bell and Hyman's *Scientific Eye*, by Adam Hart-Davis, was much more unreserved. This, like *Word Games* has no authorial voice, but the voice here is considerably less teacherish, more amusing and a lot less patronizing. It is the voice of an enthusiast who wants to convey his enthusiasm. We learn about creatures that live in your eyelashes; about separating salt from pepper; about density; about cat's whiskers... always in a lively, fascinating and occasionally slightly outrageous manner. It is easy to imagine a class coming to this book with real pleasure and eagerness.

Reservations? Well, perhaps it leaps from topic to topic in a kind of "Did you know that...?" way with no obvious links. And it may be that some of the answers are too easily given. Primary science should aim to give children the ability to perceive problems and devise experiments. This book has an element of this, but the balance is, on the whole, towards giving lots of interesting facts. Nevertheless, this is a textbook which will encourage teacher and pupil towards sound and enjoyable learning - and it is fun to read for its own sake.

One genuinely distinctive book divided the judges. You and Your Food by Judy Tatchell and Dilys Wells (one of their surnames makes it a book's spine at least; Usborne £4.95) is in this publisher's proven style of cheerful cartooning and has a text that doesn't mess about. Your small intestine is about as long as a bus. "Too much fat and cholesterol can cause your arteries to furl up... If a large artery is blocked, you may die." Under food-related illnesses, the illustrations of constipation and "feeling rotten" are, well, graphic. One of us did, however, feel that this style led to some unscientific generalizations.

It would be wrong though to suggest that all "packaged" series are equally bland. Peter D. Riley's *Signposts* to £6.50 or £6.95) is agreeably literate as well as libraries. A similar welcome might have been given to the same publisher's *Conservation* series (£6.95 each), although such titles as *Time for Trees* did not feature in our list.

Hedges, Walls and Boundaries by Romola Showell proved an original and interesting topic but had a nice line in platitudes. "Wherever you are you can find the fortune to be more than timely; it also seemed to be written by someone who cared."

Indeed it was pleasing to find that publishers have, by and large, stopped producing romantically idealistic hit-tech futurologies and are tackling issues of the here and now. Macdonald's *People Then and Now* series (£5.95 each) is a worthy attempt to make sense of political issues for 10-year-olds and upwards. A Fair Deal? In Britain sets about making clear the issues of poverty, the distribution of wealth and the welfare state. Civil Rights... In the USA is frank and impressively complicated - but both have some direct artwork and embarrassing written "incidents". Significantly there is no authorial voice on their covers.

Senior Information Book Award Marks of distinction

The winner, the runners-up, and the books we'd rather forget

What is the distinctive mark of an information book? As often as not it is the absence of an author's name from the front cover. In case of *Find Out About* (Hamish Hamilton), one can quite understand why. With its alternately shoddy and garish artwork (including a sanguinary human sacrifice), and costing £4.95 for 32 pages, few people would wish to be associated with it. In fact the text is not much better as it rattles on: "Although many religious festivals involved human sacrifice, some did not and most provided opportunities for the people to sing and dance and enjoy themselves."

More seriously, what the case of the missing author's name suggests is that many information books seem to be prompted only by a publisher's (or marketing manager's) "concept". "Right, we'll do a series on... Each book 265 x 210mm, 48 pages, 14 double-page spreads, 60 per cent illustration, 600 words per spread." And then, when authors' typescripts have been received, one senses the clammy hand of an editor ironing out individuality to make for "series style".

No wonder then that the judges were unanimous in deciding that Peter Connolly's *The Legend of Odysseus* (Oxford University Press, £7.95) should be this year's winner. Despite being published in a series, it is so very definitely Connolly's own book and the product of a genuine enthusiasm. For a start, his re-telling of the Trojan War and Odysseus' wanderings reads extremely well: he has a lucid and engaging prose style. But it is also a serious work of archaeology whose visual reconstructions, maps and photographs combine to present a clear picture of how the latest findings illuminate the domestic, social and military life of those times. The author is a gifted illustrator of architecture and of artefacts. If his representations of Penelope and some of the other leading players are distinctly Dullist, then those bachelors on the plains of Troy had more than a hint of soap about them.

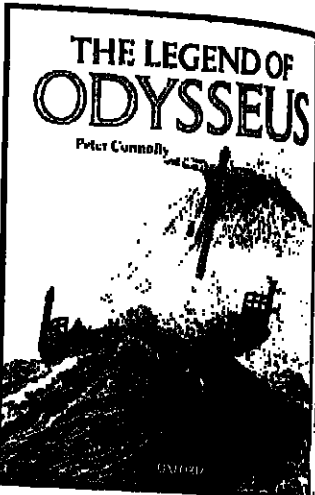
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**Senior Award
The Legend of Odysseus**
by Peter Connolly
Oxford University Press
£7.95

Wayland's *Flashpoint* series for older readers tackles *The Rise of Solidarity* (by Tim Sharnan £5.75) and *The Vietnam War* (by Richard Edwards £5.50). Both are noteworthy in explaining the causes of the events in question. Nigel Richardson's *The July Plot in Droyad's A Day That Made History* series (£7.50) is both a good detective story and thoroughly researched. Macdonald's *Debates* has been an equally admirable series. This year it has offered us *Law and Order* (Adam Lippman and Gaby Macdonald £5.95). Bizarrely this includes a chapter on euthanasia which begins up visions of the peace being brought by self-destructing granules. Terrorism by Christopher Coker (Watts £5.25) makes a brave attempt to explain its subject but seems to see IRA as the only Irish problem outside PLO as the only Middle East one.

The makers of natural history books continue to have their problems. The *Animal Habitats* series (Methuen £4.95 each) has sumptuous photographs provided by Oxford Scientific Films and an anecdote text. In *The Secret World of Bats* (also Methuen, £6.95), John and Molly Hines go over the top in worrying about the unfortunate bat's image, and enthuse about bat droppings that look like instant coffee. Not vice versa, you note.

There were other books you might wish to forget even more rapidly. *Growing Up* (Modus Books £5.95) is a sex manual for children, illustrated with photographs that would get the book impounded by HM Customs. It has offered us *Law and Order* (Adam Lippman and Gaby Macdonald £5.95) for eight pages, a balloon (some rubber bands) just isn't a book. Cambridge University Press reaches impressive depths with the abysmal illustrations in its series *The Clothes they Wore* but gives us a very handy *Acorn Cambridge Illustrated Dictionary* for Young Computer Users.

This book would seem to be the acceptable aspect of a worrying trend: the partisan or "sponsored" book. Admittedly *The Police Force* by Ben Williams (Batsford £7.50) has no official imprimatur but the publicity photographs and the habit of quoting the police directly but only of quoting any criticism makes this little more than a PR job. Building a Car by Hannah Jacobs (Hamish Hamilton £4.95) comes courtesy of Vauxhall Motors and is a shameless plug for their "high quality" volume. Building a House, is a sustained and sycophantic hymn of praise to Barratts. It ends with a family moving into a house on a new Barratt estate. Their next-door neighbour have come from another Barratt home. "That's good to hear, isn't it?" says Mrs Gregory. "It's nice to feel you've made a wise choice."

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Junior Information Book Award Pencils and polar bears

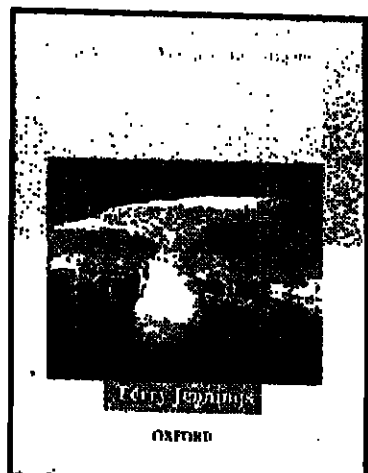
Winning, losing and the encroachment of sponsorship

interest that catches up the reader, but too often these books emerged as production-line items.

Our eight shortlisted titles reflect several current educational or social concerns. My class at Diwali (Watts £4.95), warm-hearted and arrestingly illustrated, reflects the interest in non-Christian religions which is one consequence of our multi-ethnic society. It shows children, staff and parents working cooperatively - again a contemporary theme. However, it is so busy recording activities (making potato prints, cards, collages) that it fails to make clear the significance of this religious festival of light. In *Children's Home* (Black £4.50) we are left in no doubt of the message as we learn, in Lee's words, about life for a child moved since babyhood between foster home and institutions. The outstanding photographs catch Lee's personality and relationships, but confining the text to Lee's account has resulted in a stilted style, narrow vocabulary and the restriction of a single perspective.

Freshness is brought to a well-worn theme, the animal life cycle, in *Hamster in the Black's Stopwatch* series (£3.95). The glowing colour photographs are supplemented by line drawings and diagrams: the text stays close to the reader, helping the connection between pictures and words, giving the facts but staying relaxed. Reader participation goes further in *What happens when you listen?* (Hamish Hamilton £2.95). Where we learn through homey experiments. Again, the author's sense of audience is sharp, the explanations carried in clear, short sentences. This is from a series to commend, but illustrations and layout lacked the distinction one expects of an award-winner.

A Florentine Merchant (Macdonald



**Junior Award -
Polar Regions**
by Terry Jennings
Oxford University Press
£4.95

£4.50) took us on a romantic excursion as we followed the life of Zita, the Russian slave-girl, in the household of Masser Francesco. The text rears along in sub-novella style sprinkled with anachronisms, but in the end we were left with a laboured story helped down by softly-coloured, charming illustrations. However, the basic model - of story based on historical records - is valid and worth further exploration. *Traffic Computer* (Black £4.50), brought us firmly back to the present. This account of traffic control in busy towns is interesting, under-

standable and positive in showing the relation between machines and human judgement. The mix of cartoons with photographs and diagrams makes for a cluttered page, and it is a pity that a book about traffic cannot get accurate colours for traffic lights.

So far, so easy: by now two books remained, and the choice between them was difficult. *Making Pencils* (Watts £4.95) takes an unlikely subject and makes it absorbing; design and layout are sharp; illustrations and captions integrated. We follow the production process in one particular factory - and here's the rub. Not content with acknowledging the company's assistance, the publisher adds a final double spread which amounts to little more than an advertising puff. There is already concern about advertisements in exercise books. As our colleagues on the Senior Award make clear, they are starting to invade information books. While applauding the immediacy of Watts' new series, we urge them to rethink the closing commercial.

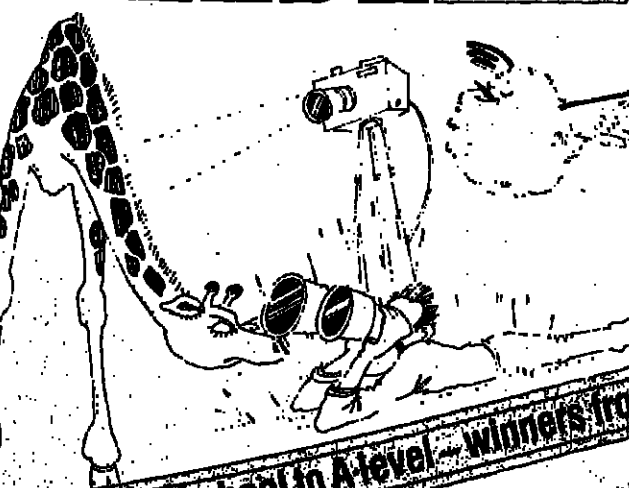
The unanimous choice of award-winner was *The Young Geographer Investigates Polar Regions*, a distinguished example of information book which is close to classroom work, yet never stuffy. The writing shows a precise perception of audience: explanations are clear; a range of illustrations support and extend the text. The reader is helped by recapitulation sections and involved through experiments and activities. The book is marred by some carelessness in writing or proof correction - errors one ought not to find in a university press - but it is outstanding in linking a subject as distant as Arctic and Antarctic with children's own experience and investigation.

In celebrating the quality of prize-winner and shortlist, we should not forget that the information book field is still the repository of the inaccurate (Push as nursery favourite in *An Edwardian Household*, Wayland £4.50); the over-prescriptive (ironically in *Let's Imagine Energy*, £4.95); or the unimpaired collection of facts, e.g. *Hike and Jack*, from Deutsch, £4.95). Textually it trails far behind the standard of children's fiction. So we have the old travelogue style in Wayland's *Buddhist Festivals* (£5.50): "There is much colour to be observed", or *A Roman Soldier* (Macdonald £4.50) reconstructed via "You're checking that spear like a barbarian". Indexes are frequently back jobs and virtually useless (see Black's *Pilot's Computer*, £4.50); the tyranny of the double spread has been joined by the tyranny of the picture researcher. More fundamentally, the old adage of starting where the child is gets ignored again and again: Wayland's *Focus on Seafood* (£5.50) is introduced with "The varied catch of a prawn trawler in the Gulf of Carpentaria"; *Butterflies and Moths* (Wayland £5.50) with the African Monarch. If we believe that information books are tools of learning, there's some honing to be done.

Peggy Heeks

Schoolbook Award Judges: Mary Jane Drummond, lecturer in the Cambridge Institute of Education; Geoff Fox, senior lecturer in education at Exeter University; Gerald Haigh, head of Henry Bellairs Middle School, Nuneaton; Hilary Minns, head of Courthouse Green Primary School, Coventry. **Information Book Awards, Senior:** Lesley Bulman, author and head of Kingsdale School, South London; Jessica Sarag, who teaches history at Nonsuch School, Chertsey; David Self, writer and broadcaster, and author of many educational books. **Juniors:** Beverly Anderson, senior lecturer in education at Oxford Polytechnic; Tom Deveson who teaches at John Donne Primary School, South London; Peggy Heeks, library adviser for Berkshire.

WINNER of the first TES Schoolbook Award



**Adam Hart-Davis
SCIENTIFIC EYE**

Illustrated by Adam Cope
Designed by Geoffrey Wadley

From primary school to A level - winners from Bell & Hyman

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A major new systematic text by Brian Atkin. Specifically designed for GCSE.
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While sharks, if they stop swimming, sink like stones -
What lifted Archimedes' chubby daughter -
And why a tennis player grunts and groans!

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And how well meat balls bounce on your spaghetti -
Then you will have a Scientific Eye!

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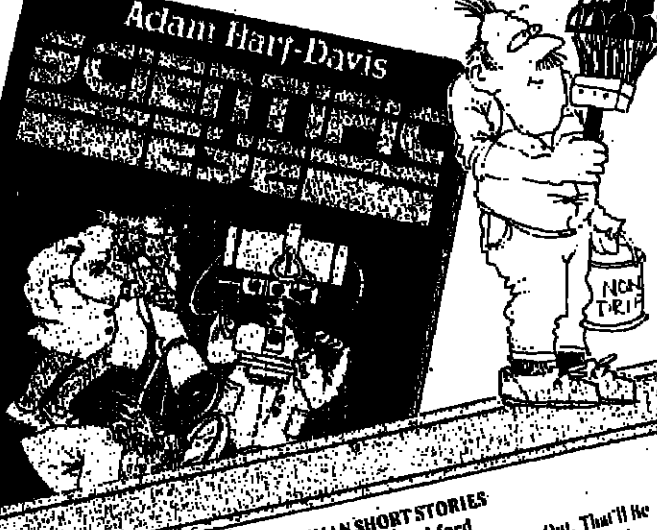
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Less is more?

Robin Buss on the direction in which the London Film Festival is heading

In 1957, British cinema was attracting something around 600 million admissions annually. That year, at the National Film Theatre, they held the first London Film Festival. It featured films from 13 countries. The NFT has just finished a small season to rerun the entire event.

The reprise was a prelude to the 30th LFF which opened yesterday. This is on a different scale altogether: over 150 films, from 36 countries, shown at nine different venues. No one could hope to take in more than a fraction of these riches, films from five continents, in languages from Japanese to Serbo-Croat; adult films and children's films; commercial films and experimental films, jazz films, silent classics, a surprise film and a royal charity premiere. And while admissions to British cinemas, which had started to decline a decade before the original festival, now stand at about one-seventh the 1957 figure, the British contribution to the LFF is bigger and allegedly better than ever: 28 new features, numerous shorts, animated films and a showing of Cyril Frankel's *Man of Africa*, produced in 1952 but not previously shown in its complete version in this country (NFT1, November 18).

The structure and the highlights of the LFF are well-established. There is the Thames Silent, this year Eric von Stroheim's *Greed* (at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on November 22), once described as the "vilest, most putrid picture in the history of the motion picture business", restored as a classic of cinema naturalism, with full orchestral score by Carl Dreyer. There is the *Capital Radio Junior LFF*. There is a strong French contingent, some making a mini-festival at the French Institute, as well as the Swedish-French co-production of Tardowski's *The Sacrifice* (at NFT1 on November 22). In the second largest contribution, after Britain, with every variety of film, from Lizzie Borden's *Working Girls* (NFT1, November 17) and *Frederick Wiseman's Deaf and Blind* (NFT1, November 15 and 16), a documentary mini-series on physical handicap, to David

Cronenberg's remake of *The Fly* (Odeon, Leicester Square, November 23) and the all-round appeal of John Badham's *American Flyers* (NFT1, November 25), in which two brothers, one with an incurable disease, battle to win a major cycle race. There is more than one movie about the making of other movies.

It is hard to imagine a single fragment of the reduced British audience for films that is not catered for in the 18 days of the festival. The wisest non-specialists will probably avoid its obvious successes and the films that are certain to find British distributors, and go for those like Yan Xueshu's *Wild Mountain* (NFT1, November 25), a vivid comedy which gives an unexpected picture of life in rural China under a more liberal economic regime, or Robert Gardner's demanding documentary on Benares, *Forest of Bliss* (NFT1, November 21; NFT2, November 23), a beautifully photographed work that will gradually reveal its macabre significance to an unsuspecting audience. Requests for the tickets you want are often disappointed because of demand, so it is not a bad idea to take risks. At the NFT and most of the other cinemas, the experiment will cost you £3.75, which may not be popcorn, but not a fortune either.

Beside the 1957 effort, the 30th LFF looks at first sight like a giant standing on the shoulders of a dwarf, until you notice that the first little festival consisted of Kurosawa's *Throne of Blood*, Bergman's *The Seventh Seal*, Kurosawa's *The Captain from Köpenick*, Wajda's *Kanal*, Kazan's *A Face in the Crowd*, and Fellini's *Nights of Cabiria*, as well as films by René Clair, Satyajit Ray and Luchino Visconti. Less is more? These were not the films, or the directors, that pulled the audiences into the Odeon and the Roxies in 1957. They reflected a definite critical taste, for European and avant-garde films rather than Hollywood, and were addressed at a limited audience that shared this taste. The current festival, eclectic, ubiquitous, sadly reflects, more than anything else, the need to maximize a declining audience for cinema films.

Liz Heron previews the children's films on page 36.



Top: "Parting of the Ways" (Cuba) LCA Nov 15, 16; centre: "Gonzu the Spearman" (Japan) NFT tonight; above: "American Flyers" (US)

Radio Television airing

In Devon Air's review of 30 years of British television, *We Bring You the Pictures*, Kate Adie is reported as having said, "Once they see a new truth, I am no longer photographing, I am laid on for my benefit." As the BBC's reporter in Libya at the time of the bombings, she cannot be expected to be reminded of those who she did in fact say them.

That was just one of several that might have pleased our new, in this hour-long and busy (not too frenetic) feature made by the company of tiny Euterpe-based ILR staff. A local academic, however, "don't realize their power to influence the public out of all proportion" to the television news producers. "We've got some bloody good people lying all over the tarmac, related, and that is a much better picture than is an explanation of an issue."

Other aspects of television are under attack in what was a far less adulatory celebration of "the television medium" (for SR too) than the long, static and slow. Of course, the recipe for success is "Repetition." There were other interesting contributions from the Maudsley on the early days of television, Channel 4 on the making of its own early days ("There are some collectors' items" and so on), and asides as to why did it need to be the BBC into doing schools television.

All this was the patient work of researcher and writer Roger Mangan, who co-produced with narrator Ian Waugh. With many of the interviews reduced to a few seconds and badly by periodic music, it was fast-moving and distinctively "commentary" style, a commercial radio style, a rental film. Despite this, it was an extremely well crafted programme and deserved its airing on other ILR stations such as LBC, Clyde, Dou- town and Inland.

David S.

New music

Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, November 17-26.

It's a two-way process, explains Richard Steinitz, artistic director of the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival. The festival sprang out of the Polytechnic and the Polytechnic feeds into the festival.

The Poly, with its music degree course geared to relevance and modernity, makes Huddersfield a natural venue for the highest annual concentration of new music outside London. A less obvious advantage - to Londoners at least - is the compactness of the town itself and the range of suitable concert halls all within walking distance of each other.

With one third of the festival's funding coming from the local authority of Kirklees there is no attempt to disguise the didactic element. Secondary pupils who have been working with the London Sinfonietta and composer Nigel Osborne will have a slot in the programme, and primaries and secondaries, together with the youth orchestra, will be performing works by this year's composer in residence, Witold Lutoslawski.

The opportunity to attend workshops and master classes by living composers is particularly valuable for the Poly's students of composition, and that means everyone except those following a performing course.

"We expect everything the students write to be performable," says George Pratt, professor of music. During the festival most classes are waived so that students can attend events such as the SPNM (Society for the Promotion of New Music) workshops led by British composer John Casken, culminating, as all the practical sessions, in concert designed to reflect the whole spectrum of recent output. How much difference

does this "terrific injection of new music" make to the department? George Pratt thinks Huddersfield students are better informed and more objective about new music than their counterparts in universities and conservatoires.

Phil Ellis, who runs the electronic music studio at the Poly, looks forward to the day when students will come up from the sixth form confident in modern compositional methods. It is reassuring to know that composers such as Berio, Xenakis and Hans Werner Henze approve of the course. The studio has spawned one of the works for the concert of new music from northern composers Barrie Webb's *Aleph* for digeridoo and tape.

Euterpe, perhaps, but seats have to be filled and popular taste cannot be ignored. So at Huddersfield you will find the folk music of Eastern Europe and contemporary dance theatre from the cognoscenti, such as concerts devoted to the work of German political composers Lachenmann and Höller. Oboist Heinz Holliger is invited in a less familiar role as a composer, and, concurrent with the BBC Russian music season there is a chance to hear the work of Soviet composer Sofia Gubaidulina.

It can be difficult to persuade composers in residence of the necessity to keep their audiences in mind. At the final Lutoslawski concert (and Lutoslawski, according to George Pratt, a composer who deserves to be more widely heard) a massive early work, the *Concerto for Orchestra*, will be performed as well as the *Third Symphony* - "rather like a meal with two main courses," commented the composer.

Richard Steinitz is at his most vocal when talking about the London contemporary music scene. He maintains that the Huddersfield festival is grossly

ARTS



underfunded by comparison with its London counterpart, the Almeida Festival, which receives double the funds and attracts a more specialist audience. His budget is £76,000, a figure which this year includes an input from the Goethe Institut who are funding the young German orchestra Ensemble Modern, and a contribution towards the cost of the London Sinfonietta.

In Europe, Darmstadt is the festival which comes closest to Huddersfield.

Philippa Davidson

Muse and views

When teachers are made to reverse their roles and become pupils, the psychology of the classroom still operates at its most basic level. This was very much in evidence at the Kent Literature Festival recently, when a small group, led by Michael Baldwin (author of 25 books), met to consider the subject of Poetry in the Secondary School.

Basing his workshop on the premise that teachers best teach English when they are writers of English, we participated in a series of exercises that culminated in an attempt at writing a poem.

The "class" was like you would find in any school: the "leader", whose sophisticated imagination brought grips and glum faces from the less successful; the genuinely shy pupil, in need of drawing out; the apparently shy, who nevertheless happens to have his latest three volumes of poems in his pocket; and even that exasperating pupil who never quite grasps exactly what is required.

A good teacher will "diffuse danger," says Baldwin, "show the pupil that success is not about winning but about getting the best out of yourself." During his years of training teachers, writing "experiments" played an important part: extending "lies" (an easier concept to grasp than "images"), games with syllables and punctuation. "Teachers are not given the opportunity to develop their own creativity, usually due to curricular demands. Also, literature and literacy are nowadays being treated as specialist subjects. School is an unnatural place and it can be boring. Why not have fun with language?"

Carol Atkinson, a teacher at Southland's Comprehensive, New Romney, believes that the experience provides an important extra stimulus for the classroom. "It heightens a teacher's awareness of the demands you normally make on pupils, particularly regarding their having to work within time limits. And even if you don't always get ideas to use in the classroom, the fact that your own thinking is affected adds dimension to your teaching and stops you from becoming too routine-like."

Augustus John could not begin to sketch until he had done something drastic to his paper. Whatever helps you to focus the mind is, says Baldwin, a vital part of the writing process: drawing margins, underlining the title in three different colours of ink. Activity and play go together. We are all in agreement. Back in the classroom, we focus our minds with the aid of a little vino. The muse flows on... and on... and on...

Jack Stephen

Session work

TSS Rock School Teachers' Workshop

This is the fourth year that Rock School's session people have taken to the roads to educate teachers in the latest developments in the sort of music that their pupils are likely to enjoy most, prior to getting the way to finding the best school rock band in Britain. In previous years, the workshops have attempted to give a grounding in pop listening, writing and playing. This year, the more ambitious one-day sessions are under the directorship of Cecil de Valle, a garrulous American, whose musical experience includes professional work in electronic music and conducting and arranging for big-name US soul performers. He is also taught high school, and it was

First, an illustrated lecture singing the praises of music as a serious and marketable skill, and explaining the terminology. MIDI - Musical Instrument Digital Interface is a key term here. It's the lingua franca for electronic instruments and computers, allowing them all to communicate with each other. A synthesiser without MIDI is as much use as an electric kettle without a plug.

Then, a gratifyingly untechnical demonstration of an eight-track computer music studio package, allowing tapeless mixing and dubbing, and finally, some "hands on" training on the impressive collection of keyboards, drum machines, portable recording equipment and computers. A number of important points emerge. First, music teachers still need the excellent rock grounding provided

in previous years. Second, as Du Valle is at great pains to point out, micro-tech music should be seen, as an addition to, rather than a replacement of existing ways of teaching music. It's an addition that will be extremely useful in teaching the GCSE syllabus. Third, its main disadvantage at the moment is that systems are almost uniquely keyboard based. If you can't play an instrument into MIDI, it won't play with computers. Finally, while music teaching has a legitimate claim to scarce school hardware, many music teachers will need some computer awareness style INSET as well as an increase in their budgets, before they can forge ahead in an exciting new direction in listening and playing - a direction which can bridge the gap between pop and serious music.

Nick Baker

Enraptured for the 7th Rock School Competition close in the end of this term. For more details ring 01-940 5688.

Hit-and-miss

Breaks For Young Bands, by Ed Berman. Omnibus Press/Inter Action. Pp. 112. £3.95. 0 7119 0978 4.

This is a book no record company affiliated publisher would dare print. The reason is simple. The current industry just fine. Record companies and DJs receive thousands of cassette demos every month. They don't have time to encourage any more. Only a tiny proportion get listened to; just enough to pick a few winners from. The industry doesn't have to exert its bread upon the waters: shoals of it are already

happy to gather at its banks, begging to be hooked. Berman's book is designed to help young hopefuls readjust the balance of power, as well as giving some friendly advice to those who are content to keep their musical activity at hobby level. As such, it's an immensely useful addition to a school or college library, because, although there is a growing enthusiasm for pop on the curriculum, there aren't enough teachers capable of advising students who approach them saying "Sir, we want to form a band."

While Berman's deliberately youthful prose style (and his passion for exclamation marks) if you like, but don't doubt that he's packed this well laid out little book with virtually all the basic information a young band needs, from advice on buying instruments (take an expert with you and don't go for false economy) to playing your first gig (persuade the "front line" that you're supporting to let you use their amplification). The advice runs from the technical to the personal, and includes chapters on demo recordings, a place to practice and perform.

It's at this point that the old inter-creative philosophy emerges. Berman envisages a system where "Breaks Centres" are set up and run for and by young musicians, with both local authority and charitable backing, where rehearsal rooms can be booked, where "nurtured" and where young bands can live in perfect constitutionalized and cooperative harmony. At the moment, there isn't a practical example to refer to.

However, Berman does provide an interview with a band from Hull called Indians in Moscow, who have had a modicum of success. Five appearances and a record that sold over 100,000 copies, as well as an introduction by a school, as an interview with a school, a very appropriate book.



Bridlington's School's production for the end of this term is a musical play written by two teachers at the school, Mr Chris Bulman and Dr Robin Talbot. As Bulman points out, it's a mild risk: "If we put on *Oklahoma* - as this school has - we attract people simply because it is that place. If we put something new on, we have to try that much harder to attract an audience."

What were his chief concerns when writing the libretto? "I try to have some scenes and plots which allow for a large number of speaking parts. I also try to write something that I wouldn't mind sitting through myself. The great thing about writing for school is that you know you will see the end product - motivation for a writer who might never see his work taken up just doesn't have."

Talbot had never written such a large body of music before - about 300 lines when all is finished, and an exhausting schedule of rehearsals. The time-consuming activity is not conceiving the music, but rather the extraordinarily lengthy business of writing the short-score, arranging and writing out parts. "He firmly believes that music teachers, like teachers in other creative arts, must be prepared to demonstrate by example. 'I've made all sorts of blunders, but that's how you learn.'"

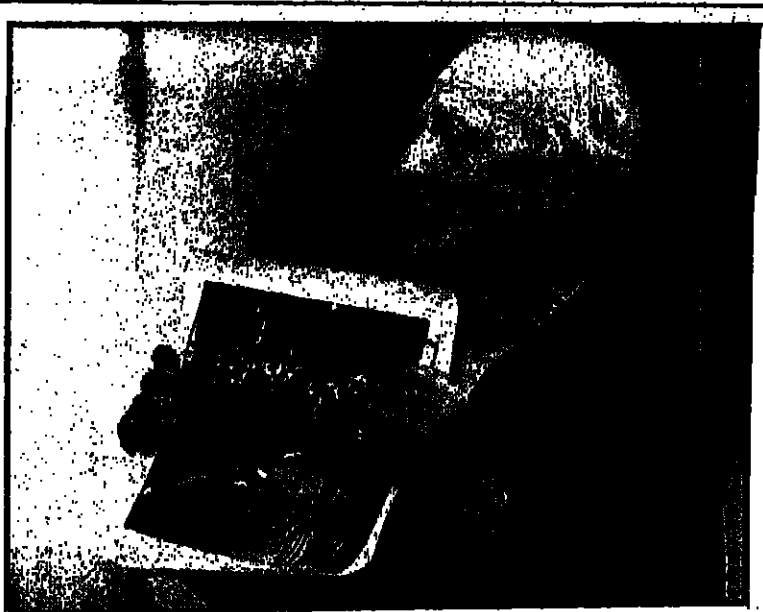
Bulman has been notably flexible with his script. With a fixed script, casting can be difficult if there are several enthusiastic pupils chasing the same part. He willingly writes up parts for those who would otherwise be disappointed. The production involves pupils from all years, and there has been a considerable amount of friction between pupils' academic commitments and their responsibilities to the production. This is a problem particularly affecting senior pupils, who have to have major roles and heavy workloads. "It's a very difficult one," said Bulman, "English teacher I'd drama: 'My sympathies are with the students.' But with active encouragement from the head, the production is seen as an important part of the school's overall curriculum. With well over 100 pupils and staff involved, the show's title 'Something Big' seems very appropriate."

Alan Barry

Television Bar-B-Q him!

"I think someone like that is sick," was the Virginia State Prosecutor's verdict on Marie Deans, who fights to get legal representation for prisoners on death row, and so undo the hard legal work that put them there (First Tuesday, ITV, November 4). This rednecked supporter of retribution, who also believes that unpaid lawyers must accept such work for the public, appeared immediately after footage taken outside the prison during an execution, with crowds carrying banners reading "Bar-B-Q him!", while giving Nazi salutes, not, as Deans said, an image that the United States likes to project to the rest of the world. As for the State Prosecutor, he was shown up, or set up, according to your point of view, his defence of the State's penalty for murder appearing in a context where his criticism of Marie Deans seemed comparable to questioning the motives of Mother Theresa.

Talking about context, it was an odd piece of scheduling that put the final part of Channel 4's history of Zionism, *Pillar of Fire*, immediately after the "personal biography" of Nasser promised in the biography of President Nasser (November 2). Heikal met Nasser when, as a young reporter, he was covering the first Arab-Israeli war and



Humphrey Spender holding a photo he took for Mass Observation

Nasser was gaining recognition as one of the few competent Egyptian generals in a disastrous campaign. After the revolution, Heikal enjoyed a unique relationship with the Egyptian leader and his weekly articles in *al-Ahram* were scrutinized in foreign ministries throughout the world, not for their unbiased opinions, but as a clue to preventing the book from even being written. Capote's achievement was to realize that truth is as much a construct as fiction. *Mass Observation* set out, before and during the Second World War, to profile the British people and

On the other channel, The South Bank Show (ITV, November 2) was still in death row (or was it skid row?) for a sad profile of Truman Capote, whose rich friends would gladly have Bar-B-Q'd him prevent publication of *Anecdotes of Prayers*. In fact, they need not have worried too much, since drink and drugs were doing the job of preventing the book from even being written. Capote's achievement was to realize that truth is as much a construct as fiction. *Mass Observation* set out, before and during the Second World War, to profile the British people and

Robin Buss

Oilfired

GP Scholarship Winners Concert, Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Oil is not the only resource in which British Petroleum has an investment. Observed John Hosler, principal of GBMD, in praise of the Scholarship winners: "It's a very difficult one," said Hosler, "English teacher I'd drama: 'My sympathies are with the students.' But with active encouragement from the head, the production is seen as an important part of the school's overall curriculum. With well over 100 pupils and staff involved, the show's title 'Something Big' seems very appropriate."

without orchestra, costumes or scenery, and Ms Waters' maturity of voice and stage presence - no doubt helped by her recent performance as Fiordiligi in the Britten-Pears School production of *Così fan tutte* - brought warmth and life to "Bei zwei Männern" from *The Magic Flute*.

A rather dull Granados "Maiden and the Nightingale" did not really do justice to pianist Nigel Hill's "doubted" talent; his rendering of "Triana" from the Iberia Suite was more rewarding. To the uninitiated it is easy to forget that the saxophone has a repertoire, albeit a limited one, outside jazz. Saxophonist Kyle Horch (one of two American winners) offered two contrasting surprises from composers Paul Creston and the ex-

traordinarily named Albert Potts III, whose Lyric Suite perfectly demonstrated the instrument's mellow lower register.

Michael Forrester's lyric tenor voice sounded fresh and unforced in two Rachmaninov songs, although his rendition of that family favourite "You are my heart's delight" was surely a concession to the occasion.

This year a scholarship was awarded for the first time to a string quartet. The Jagdish-Mistry Quartet delivered the Wolf Italian Serenade with considerable panache, easily coping with the work's technical demands and revealing in its distinctive blend of

Flute note

The Flute Book (by Nancy Toff, David and Charles £25.07/153 8771 5) focuses on the flute as it is studied and played today. As well as offering flautists (or flutists as the author prefers to call them) advice on breathing, tone, vibrato and other technical matters, the book also has a section devoted to repertoire from the Baroque era to modern times, in which individual works are analysed in context. Repertoire lists (liable to become out of date), and information on choosing and caring for the flute make this a useful reference book, though its price and solid text may deter all but the most serious of teachers and students.

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Auntie's fit of the jitters

Why has the BBC axed its schools drama on teenage homosexuality? Nick Baker questions the decision

■ We believe it would now be difficult for many teachers to use these programmes in the manner intended ■

We believe it would now be difficult for many teachers to use these programmes in the manner intended," says the BBC about the axing of *Mates*, the two-part scene drama about teenage homosexuality that was to have been broadcast in early February. Unfortunately, teachers will never know what that intention was, because of the peremptory "pulling" of the programmes from the schedules. Teachers and parents won't even be able to see for themselves because of the BBC's refusal to screen even a late-night showing of the programmes.

It's BBC Education's indecision, rather than uncertainty, which is to blame for this sorry state of affairs. Presumably, they were gambling that the Lords' amendment to the Education Bill (on putting sex education in a moral or family context) in June - more than a month before *Mates* started shooting - would fail. The kindest interpretation is that they couldn't have foreseen the about-turn in sex education matters over the past year. The unkindest is that a programme from what's regarded as one of

the flagships of Schools TV, and one which had been meticulously prepared and researched under the guidance of a leading child psychiatrist and the School Broadcasting Council, is being threatened by the spectre of Norman Tebbit waving a copy of *Jenny Lives With Eric and Martin*, the book about homosexuality used in some ILEA schools. However, the BBC insists that this is a decision entirely made by Schools Broadcasting, not one that has come from above. It's hard to imagine a situation, though, in which senior BBC management had been shown the film in the last two weeks and cleared it for broadcast.

Had it not been for *Jenny Lives With Eric and Martin*, and the current BBC versus Government rows, *Scene's* excellent track record (with universally-admired dramas and documentaries on subjects like teenage pregnancy, football violence, and mental handicap) may well have carried the film through any possible row, and got it to our screens.

The idea for *Mates* came about some five years ago after Claire Rayner had presented a "Personal View" scene on agony hunting, which briefly mentioned homosexual stereotypes. The response was sufficiently favourable to look at the possibility of doing a *Scene* on homosexuality. The School Broadcasting Council agreed that the subject warranted research. The first option, to make a documentary, was fraught with problems. To find a gay teenager who had "come out", meant finding one who was prepared to confess publicly that he'd broken the law.

Those that were willing were radical, politicized teenagers that the *Scene* audience would find hard to relate to. So the idea of a drama was mooted, and writer Leslie Stewart, a *Scene* favourite, was drafted in to write the script. Scripting was carefully monitored throughout by Dr Martin Gay, consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist at Bristol's Royal Hospital for Sick Children, and changes were made on his advice. He also contributed to the teachers' notes. Dr Gay told *THE TIMES* that his notes for teachers would "deal with some of their anxieties, help them to lead children in important areas and also to recognize some of the things that the youngsters might find particularly difficult to handle."

■ The BBC insists that this is a decision entirely made by Schools Broadcasting, not one that has come from above ■

The first episode includes a classroom scene which looks at popular prejudices, as well as stressing that homosexuality is illegal in some circumstances. Phil, who already has a girlfriend, seeks help from his teacher, who hasn't got much time for him. As episode one (entitled "Footballers Do It, Don't They?") goes on, Phil loses interest in his girlfriend and gravitates

towards Matthew, who is presented as attractive to girls but confirmedly homosexual. Phil attempts to explain to his girlfriend, without success. Meanwhile Matthew is set on by anonymous attackers, and rejected by his father who finds out about his son's homosexuality.

In episode two, the relationship develops, as Phil and Matthew escape to the freedom of a tent pitched on a remote part of the south coast. There's an entirely unspecified scene in which the boys sleep together, including one brief kiss. "It's all right," says Matthew, twice. "I know it's all right," replies Phil. In the following scene, the boys are awoken and moved on by a scandalized policeman. The sequence emphasizes the illegality aspect (although, surprisingly, the policeman doesn't ask the boys how old they are).

One possible scripting idea rejected early in the film's planning was to have Phil "retrieved" at the end of the film by his girlfriend, thereby suggesting that he's abandoned homosexuality. Instead, the girlfriend goes down to the south coast to talk to Phil, but she leaves without him. The implication is that Phil has made his own choice.

It's clear from a reading of the script that one of its aims is to make the boys' characters engage the sympathies of a young audience, sufficiently to see problems from their point of view. In so doing, it attempts to undermine stereotypical conceptions of male homosexuals.

Filming of *Mates* took place in July, under conditions of some secrecy. One person who was consulted and given

■ Nothing in the new Education Act would make the film impossible to show in schools ■

access to the script was the head teacher of the West London (Church of England) secondary school where the interior scenes were shot. She endorsed the play without hesitation. Casting of the two boys (neither of whom is gay "in real life") was careful to avoid extreme stereotypes. Alternative versions of some scenes were shot so that, if necessary, the tone of the film could be adjusted in the editing room.

Would it be difficult for teachers to use *Mates* in the manner intended? As the BBC puts it? Certainly, without the benefit of a viewing of the finished film, it's impossible to say. But it's worth stressing that nothing in the new Education Act would make the film impossible to show in schools. It definitely would need careful contextualization by teachers. Some might want to put it into perspective with the AIDS crisis, or look at the legal aspect. Many would want to keep it exclusively for sixth-form use. A video preview for governors and teachers would be essential. So would a late-night viewing for parents. Unfortunately, in what can only be seen as a fit of the jitters, the BBC has denied everyone the opportunity.

Drugs push

Michael Gordon on how one ITV region is dealing with the issue of drug abuse

TVS ACTION ON DRUGS
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The Drug In Question
November 9, 11.30pm
Catching Them Young
November 18, 3.00pm.

Why should individual ITV regions broadcast their own localized anti-drug specials? Although drugs are a national problem, each region has its own specific concerns. TVS, for example, with its busy coastline, has smuggling to deal with, and a surprisingly large number of young drug users in towns like Brighton and Hastings.

Last week they launched their anti-drugs campaign on Sunday, in a quiz game, of all things. *The Drug In Question* featured a team of lay people (Shaw Taylor, athlete Donna Hartley and Tony Mory Virginia Bottomley) in a scoreless competition against a trio of experts, including a senior policeman and a doctor specializing in drug-related matters. It was introduced by Kieran Prendergill.

As an ex-*That's Life*, Prendergill was an appropriate choice. The programme was in the Esther Rantzen-inspired serious-matters-with-a-smile mould. Nothing wrong with that, as the main problem for disseminators of information about drugs is to make it interesting without making it too

doom-laden. Thus the lay panel were able to demonstrate their all too proper ignorance of what drugs are and do.

In fact, the quiz format turned out to be a useful way of dealing comprehensively with all the drugs, including the legal ones (alcohol, caffeine and tobacco) as well as the "semi-legal" solvents and narcotics. The experts were on hand to give clippier and verse, and to add some dramatic colour. For example, heroin, once for once, is six times as valuable as gold, you can be charged with driving while impaired by drink and still be under the limit. The programme also stressed that the biggest killer drug in Britain is tobacco.

Tuesday's programme on drug education, *Catching Them Young*, asks the question "Should teachers shock, brainwash or cajole?" when dealing with the subject in the classroom. Of course, the answer is that they should do none of the above. After a brief history of drug education, starting with the straight, tamely-presented biological facts and working through the *Beatles* *Dead* shock treatment approach, the programme arrives at today's current wisdom, which is all to do with giving the facts and equipping pupils to say no in situations dominated by peer pressure which can urge them to say yes. In fact, one of the experts, Bill Rice of the respected

TACADE (Teachers' Advisory Council on Alcohol and Drug Education), suggested that responsibility-to make informed choices - could become the fourth "R".

However, the classroom footage of how this fourth "R" is being taught in one school in Hampshire is rather stilted, and doesn't get to the heart of the successful personal and social education strategy which can be forced without being patronizing. And it's clearly like to see some sequences of Hampshire's drug education co-ordinator Sue Faulkner tackling the problem. She reports about drug abuse. She says that teachers have to become aware of their own attitudes, values and beliefs before they can become effective in this most difficult area. At the two extremes are the traditionalists who find it hard to "let go" in the classroom and the Sixties-influenced teachers who may have liberal attitudes to soft drugs.

Other programmes this week include tonight's documentary on drug smuggling in the TVS region, Monday's phone-in, Thursday's programme about Britain's taste for alcohol, and finally, a forward-looking *Facing South* special next Friday night.

There's also a free booklet, with addresses of relevant organizations, Action on Drugs Booklet, PO Box 123, Southampton SO9 7TH.

briefings
radio & tv

For schools

CHOICES
NBS (Monday-Tuesday, 00.30 VHF4)
A short series for senior pupils exploring opportunities for study and work between the ages of 14 and 18-plus. How do you choose for GCSE and A-levels? What awaits you on a Youth Training Scheme or at College?

GENERAL STUDIES
(Mon 12.40, Fri 13.33 BBC2)
"Have a Drink" points out to 16 to 19-year-olds that alcohol is just as big a problem as drugs and just as addictive. Asks why the problem exists and what the consequences are.

NOW AND THEN
(Monday, 14.15 BBC2)
NEAR AND FAR
(Tuesday, 11.17 BBC2)
"Now and Then" encourages top juniors to look at changing landscapes, beginning with "The rise and fall of King Coal", which concentrates on the Rhondda Valley. "Near and Far" examines changes in the use of Moorland in North Yorkshire.

DANCE WORKSHOP
NBS (Wednesday-Friday, 00.30 VHF4)
A series to encourage 10 to 13-year-olds to make the most of body movements and rhythm when dancing.

FIRST STEPS IN DRAMA
(Thursday, 9.50 VHF4)
"Star Street Starship" is a fictional adventure to lead seven to nine-year-olds into the active world of drama.

SCENE
(Thurs 11.40, Fri 12.32 BBC2)
"Nuclear Power - Do We Have a Choice?" aims to set out the pros and cons for 14 to 16-year-olds in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster. Examines the safety of nuclear power and the alternatives.

Pass the parcel

David Self on a 'ZigZag' project which sets up links between primary schools in Britain and Europe

SCHOOLS TELEVISION
ZigZag: Winter Festivals
BBC2, Mondays 11am, Wednesdays 2.15pm from November 17.

"A school in Sheffield... and a school in Sweden. Sheffield and Sweden are over 1,000 kilometres apart, but last year they found a way of getting to know each other. Here's how it happened..." So begins the first of a new trio of programmes in the BBC's miscellany series, *ZigZag*, which is designed to stimulate project work with eight to 10-year-olds.

The idea for the programmes began with a Swedish experiment intended to help children learn about their contemporaries in other parts of the country through the exchange of parcels of toys, photographs, tapes and other artefacts illustrating their particular way of life. *ZigZag* has extended the idea by setting up links between three English schools and ones in Sweden, Holland and Finland. The making, posting and opening of

the parcels they send each other is a central theme of the programmes and, as few of us can resist the excitement of undoing a parcel, they prove to be great fun.

This is not intended to be merely second-hand enjoyment. The producer, Tom Stanier, hopes that viewing schools will themselves want to be twinned with a European one, and so is setting up "a sort of glorified electronic marriage bureau" to pair up British schools with ones in the three other countries involved. Over 500 continental schools have already expressed interest.

The films communicate quite clearly how "the hidden treasure of a parcel" can generate interest in a recipient school. It is through the contents of the parcels featured in the films that the unit of programmes develops its second aim - to illustrate the differing customs connected with winter festivals. For example, in the second programme, Watlington County Primary in Oxfordshire posts a parcel in celebration of Guy Fawkes and receives one

from Holland containing items connected with Sinterklaas or St Nicholas. In the third programme, Colleton Primary School in Twyford and a school in Finland exchange Christmas parcels.

More immediately, in the first programme, we see how children in Sweden celebrate the festival of St Lucia on December 13. The combination of the feast day of an early Christian martyr and a pagan festival of light, it is marked by making saffron buns, singing a delightful song and wandering around with lighted candles on your head. It is also quite common for children to make a "surprise" visit, bringing buns and candles to their teacher's bedroom at seven o'clock on the morning in question. How about that as a condition of employment?

Any school wishing to be twinned with a European one should send a stamped A4 envelope to ZigZag (Europe), PO Box 98, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 0PE by January 10.



Children at Watlington Primary School prepare to send a Guy Fawkes to Dillenburg School in Rotterdam

Starter plays

SCHOOL RADIO
Taking Sides
BBC Radio 4 VHF.
September 14 and 15
Emergency cassette service available.

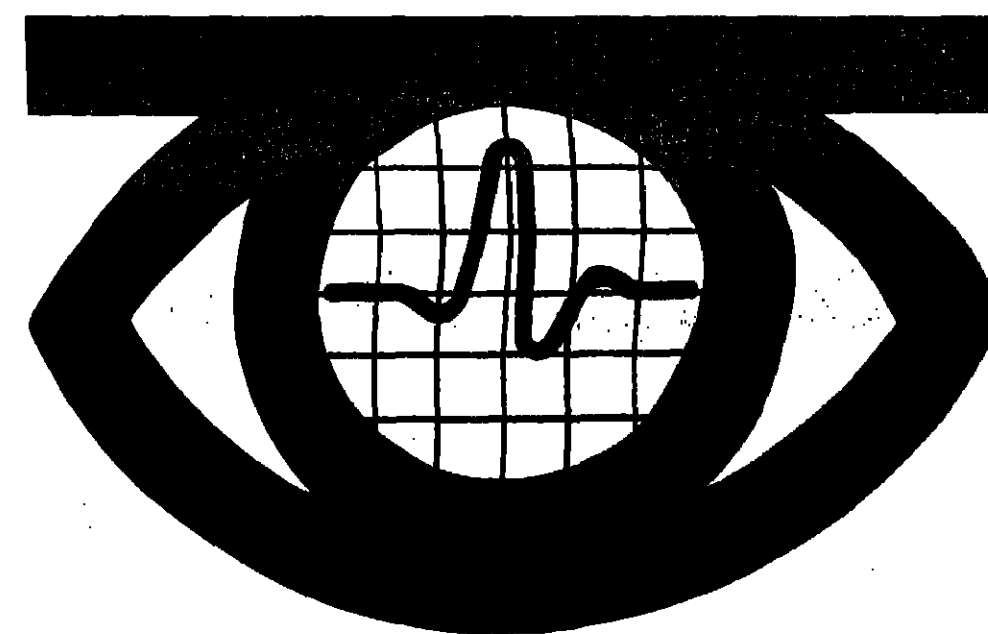
Thank God I'll never be a teenager again. Listening to *Taking Sides* it was all too easy to remember how excruciating "failure at sports" or being "an individual divided from the group by money" was. Michael Rosen's presentation balances nicely between the empathetic and avuncular, offering lots of territory for tutors and tutees in small personal/social skills groups.

The programme uses the "starter" format, in which short talks or playlets are recorded and listeners are encouraged to switch off and use the material for discussion at indicated points. Some of the issues covered are simply introduced by the humorous Mr Rosen, others are brought to life by secondary school pupils improvising dramatic situations. It may be helpful to use the leaflet and to persuade the group to explore improvisation for themselves.

Each topic is introduced by snazzy space-age music and each question signalled by a burst of the sound of classroom voices. "Fail in Sport" has Michael Rosen remembering how he yearned to excel at cross-country running and impress his hero, the Swiss games master. He went in for swimming and the bronze medalion. "Rivalry and Arguments in the Home" has girls from Brynnessa High School, Wrexham, in Clevedon, improvising their conflict over what television programme (*EastEnders* or show jumping) they want to watch when Mum is out. "Conflict or Responsibility to Family and Friends" has boys from the same school dramatizing a boy's dilemma when he has to mind his baby brothers and possibly miss scouts. "The Individual Divided from the Group by Money" shows some boys from Forest Gate community school enacting the time-honoured theme of "up west and no money".

The second block of starters is focused away from the individual. "Friends Falling Out" reveals Michael Rosen's reminiscence of his boyhood friend cutting him for no special reason. "Losing Friends by Keeping Rules" again features the talented boys from Forest Gate dramatizing the conflict between sharing exam answers and being one of a more dubious crowd. The last in the series, "What's to Be Done?", takes the issue of possible misuse of agro chemicals and gets a brief discussion between the National Farmers' Union and Friends of the Earth to what an average young person might hope to contribute.

Victoria Neumark



SCIENTIFIC EYE

A SECOND TELEVISION SERIES

Mondays at 11.19 a.m. and Fridays at 10.26 a.m. from 19th January on ITV

SCIENTIFIC EYE
looks at:

- FLOATING & SINKING
- SEEING & BELIEVING
- EARTH LTD.
- GETTING THINGS CLEAN
- CRIMEBUSTERS
- HEARING & SOUND
- PLANTS FOR FOOD
- FITNESS & SPORT
- SHAPE & STRENGTH
- WHAT IS LIFE?



YORKSHIRE TELEVISION

Independent Television for Schools

"Teaching science in an open-ended, problem solving way which satisfies the content demands of syllabuses is not easy, so it is a relief to find a series of television programmes that shows how it can be done."
"Scientific Eye... shows how lower school science courses can be made relevant, interesting and fun."

Jackie Hardie in
THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT



Arthur Miller

Downtown New York

SCHOOLS TELEVISION
English Film A View from the Bridge
BBC, September - October.

All good things must come to an end. The problem with *A View from the Bridge*, which was a very good thing, was that it came to an end before a lot of us realized it had even started. The three-part adaptation of Arthur Miller's drama began at the end of September and was thus deprived of what programme planners call the "inherited audience" from previous units in the BBC's *English Film* series. Happy those schools who had got their off-air recording sorted out, however; they now possess a valuable resource for senior classes as well as those groups which might be studying

the play for examination purposes. Teachers who propose using it with the former will probably have more fun for, as well as being a considerable work in its own right. *A View from the Bridge* also provides ample material for a study of American literature and even offers oblique comparisons with, say, *Othello*.

Both possibilities are well catered for in the new BBC production. Right from the opening shot, it pitches us into the thick of life in downtown New York. The action flows out of Eddie Carbone's building on to the pavement in a vast studio set which features a barber's pole, a fire hydrant and the inevitable yellow cab. But meanwhile the play takes us in the opposite direction - deeper and deeper into the claustrophobic tensions which pervade Eddie's apartment like the smell of stale food.

"As good a man as he had to be," like a Brooklyn Willie Loman, Eddie is out of his depth, wrestling with emotions he can barely articulate, let alone control. His wife's niece, he cannot help noticing, is getting curvy, and attracting the attentions of a "sub-machine" - one of two illegal immigrants holed up in the Carbone apartment. When she announces that she is going to marry him, something snaps within Eddie and precipitates the final tragedy, a messy sidewalk end for a man who, we are told, "never expected to have a destiny".

It is hardly a children's story; and the production does not pull its punches. Everything is as it should be - even if this does mean a slow and to-modern eyes rather creaky first episode. But even that is sustained by the acting and production, which are first-rate throughout. Watch this space for details of the repeat, and order plenty of tissues in time for the final episode; even hardened classes are likely to need them.

Hugh David

Resources

This week's reviews are on page 36

4	Titles available for recording from Sunday 16 November 1986	Approximate transmission times
Sunday 16 November	5.15 The Business Programme For Code P	10.30 A Change of Mind For Code C
Monday 17 November	6.30 March of Time III: In Tune of War 10.45 For Code A 6.30 March of Time III: In Tune of War 10.45 For Code A 6.30 March of Time III: In Tune of War 10.45 For Code A	10.30 The Heart of the Dragon - Repeat 10.30 The Heart of the Dragon - Repeat 10.30 The Heart of the Dragon - Repeat
Tuesday 18 November	6.30 March of Time III: In Tune of War 10.45 For Code A 6.30 March of Time III: In Tune of War 10.45 For Code A 6.30 March of Time III: In Tune of War 10.45 For Code A	10.30 The Heart of the Dragon - Repeat 10.30 The Heart of the Dragon - Repeat 10.30 The Heart of the Dragon - Repeat
Wednesday 19 November	6.30 March of Time III: In Tune of War 10.45 For Code A 6.30 March of Time III: In Tune of War 10.45 For Code A 6.30 March of Time III: In Tune of War 10.45 For Code A	10.30 The Heart of the Dragon - Repeat 10.30 The Heart of the Dragon - Repeat 10.30 The Heart of the Dragon - Repeat
Thursday 20 November	6.30 March of Time III: In Tune of War 10.45 For Code A 6.30 March of Time III: In Tune of War 10.45 For Code A 6.30 March of Time III: In Tune of War 10.45 For Code A	10.30 The Heart of the Dragon - Repeat 10.30 The Heart of the Dragon - Repeat 10.30 The Heart of the Dragon - Repeat
Friday 21 November	6.30 March of Time III: In Tune of War 10.45 For Code A 6.30 March of Time III: In Tune of War 10.45 For Code A 6.30 March of Time III: In Tune of War 10.45 For Code A	10.30 The Heart of the Dragon - Repeat 10.30 The Heart of the Dragon - Repeat 10.30 The Heart of the Dragon - Repeat

RESOURCES



Valhalla November 15 and 16, 3.00pm ICA
Where the River Runs Black November 16, 4.00pm NFI
Exploits at West Poley November 22 and 23, 3.00pm ICA
The Adventures of Chatran November 23, 4.00pm NFI
Frog Dreaming November 29, 4.15pm NFI
School for Vandal November 30, 4.45pm NFI

Comparison of cultures

As the London Film Festival opens, Liz Heron previews this year's films for children

The absence of space fiction and fantasy among the children's films at this year's London Film Festival suggests a move away from the genres that have held young audiences in thrall ever since the *Star Wars* cycle began. But there is still magic and mystery, with landscape and animals also featuring strongly. Like last year, six films are being screened, under the banner of Junior LFF, on the three weekends.

Frog Dreaming, the only one previewed ahead of the Festival's opening, also begins a season at the ICA in London just in time for Christmas, and will then be at selected cinemas elsewhere. An Australian production, directed by the British-born Brian Trenchard-Smith, it stars Henry Thomas, the young actor now familiar to children world-wide as ET's best friend. There are no extra-terrestrials, but the star's first appearance quite deliberately recalls the Spielberg blockbuster in a way that ensures instant audience identification and sympathy.

We first see the hero in a fast action sequence that involves cycling along a railway track. As he rushes heading

towards the lowered camera and his friends ride breakneck across-country we are taken back to the flying sequence in *ET*. This, of course, is a film about growing up, but the orphaned hero, Cody, has to sprout his own wings, and since his permissive and supportive guardian rarely clips them, he has to seek out his own rites of passage in life of rebellion.

The plot hinges on the mysterious hearings and babbings at the centre of a pond deep in wild countryside, reputedly a haunted Aboriginal site. A fisherman is found dead, apparently transfixed by something he saw, and events tally with Aboriginal legend about a spirit that cannot be looked at without risk of death. Cody investigates and fearlessly unravels the mystery.

Henry Thomas makes an engaging hero, and the film is worth seeing alone for the beautifully-photographed landscapes of southern Australia, rendered particularly atmospheric in the forest scenes where the exotic and dangerous animals along the children's trail are endowed with an awesome dignity. The suspense, very much in the *Jaws* tradition, is superbly and chillingly



Henry Thomas in 'Frog Dreaming'

handled. There's also an admirable attempt to weld realism with a sense of strongly-rooted myth and magic that draws on the wisdom of another culture, although the Aboriginals are very much a background presence, impenetrably other. This is an entertaining film, gripping enough to sustain adult interest, as any film for this pre-teenage group should.

But the unfulfilling focus on Cody's super-heroic courage and his bright-spark ingenuity as an inventor irritates, for these seem more like postures of initiative of the tough guy and the know-all rather than convincing attributes, and his triumphs put others too much in the shade. While the younger of his two sidekicks is a spirited prankster, her sister tends to shrink away from adventure and her lack of initiative is hardly redeemed by a rebellious escape from repressive parents in the film's last few minutes. The occasional misogynist joke and the absence of sympathetic women characters make the film's identification wholly masculine.

Spectacular landscapes and a comparison of cultures also figure in Christopher Cain's *Where the River*

Runs Black. This is a Hollywood production set in the Amazonian jungle and with an *enfant sauvage* theme—the story of an orphaned boy brought up by dolphins until the day he arrives at a Catholic mission. Described as "one of the most spectacular animal films ever made", the Japanese *Adventures of Chatran* was filmed in a wildlife reserve and has a kitten as its central protagonist.

Both the Children's Film Unit and the Children's Film and Television Foundation are represented in the festival, the former with *School for Vandal*, which has elements of comedy and gothic intrigue; the latter with a rare literary adaptation, *Exploits at West Poley* based on Thomas Hardy's only novel written for children. This adventure tale with its two boy heroes who get up to mischief is located in Somerset in 1850.

The closest audiences will get to extra-terrestrials with this year's bunch of films is in the Danish animation feature, *Valhalla*, whose subject is the exploits of the Norse god and their encounter with two human children.

Robin Bus previews the main festival on page 32.

Long life

Duracell Cells and Batteries
Teacher pack, £5.95
Contents: 15 student booklet, teacher's guide, filmstrip, comment sheet, four task cards
Duracell Technical Division, Duracell House, Church Road, Lough Heath, Crawley, West Sussex.

My initial impression on opening the pack suggested that I was party to an advertising campaign, and paying £5.95 for the privilege of promoting a manufacturer's product, but not so.

The introduction to the student booklet tends to confuse the reader. The booklet contains a photograph, illustration and diagram, plus a number of differing types faces on A5 pages, but the remaining eight pages are well laid out and show clearly the principles and construction of primary and secondary cells (knowledge of which is required by most of the new GCSE, CDT and Technology syllabuses). The booklet also states the reasons why cells are joined either in series or parallel, but no mention is made of recent developments in rechargeable cells such as NiCad and Lithium.

The teacher's guide is an A4 two-page pamphlet, describing possible teaching strategies for implementing the materials, with suggestions as to the age and ability range at which specific parts of the pack might be aimed. The filmstrip and accompanying commentary notes are well organized and allow the commentator to pose set questions while showing the stills.

The task cards are very good and will appeal to 13 to 16-year-olds. They contain problem-solving activities with a number of interesting design briefs that allow the student to cover a body of knowledge through practical work. A number of the briefs could form the basis for interesting projects in both upper and lower schools.

Hugh Daniel

In the mood

Ecouter
GCSE listening activities
Pack of 32 pupils' books, teacher's notes, C90 cassette, £45.50 inc Edupub, Church Lane, Wigginton, York YO3 8PR.

"We need to teach pupils how to listen," say the authors of *Ecouter* in their introduction to the teacher's notes, and they go on to list and comment on four separate listening skills learners will need to acquire if they are to engage productively with the materials presented. The information might well have been included—in some form—in the pupils' books; they too will need to be made aware of the emphasis in GCSE on the breakdown of tasks into discrete skills.

But there is considerable success here. The listening activities encompass 16 settings common to most

GCSE syllabuses, each one being exploited through a series of seven progressively more difficult activities. One problem with producing materials of this type is the authentic/artificial dilemma, but here, although the language is scripted, there is rarely any hint of lines being read or of over-rehearsed conversations. And, while only a small number of voices is heard (as a consequence, learners will only encounter 'standard French'), the speakers manage to convey the moods and attitudes of the different characters they take on.

A fair question to ask of such materials is what picture they build up of contemporary France. Within the constraints of explicitly exam-orientated materials, the average fourth or fifth-former is going to get not a fully-rounded view of France but certainly a series of accurate snapshots of how French life is lived, with his or her

own age-related concerns coming into particularly sharp focus. A wide range of language, characteristic of such settings as Public Transport, Private Transport, Work Places, Doctors, Dentists, School and School Day should engage the learners' interests and provide something of a general cultural input. The activities themselves move from responses to "wh" questions in the earlier activities to summarizing attitudes and summarizing arguments in the more advanced ones.

A residual worry is that the activities, perhaps even the whole approach, do not leave a great deal of scope for teaching. Inevitably, the bias is towards the kind of testing GCSE will bring, and this simply needs to be borne in mind. And, unhappily, the number of unwanted stretches of speech have not been edited from the tape.

Tim Parke

Woodcuts

Woodwork Technology
Construction Skills Pack, £25
Edward Arnold Ltd, 41 Madison Street, London W1.

In the near future, a vast number of textbooks will probably be superseded by the "clicking master" pack. The *Woodwork Technology Construction Skills Pack* is purely skills-based, and covers a great deal of ground in relation to construction skills and techniques in wood. But is there the need for such an intense approach to a single material? The new GCSE syllabuses do not allocate the time required that would allow teacher or student to do justice to it.

All the traditional woodworking techniques are covered, from cross-halving to lapped dovetail, frame and carcass construction, cut cupboard doors and butt hinges. The majority of schools probably have information of this nature readily available, if not in this particular form, then as a library of woodworking textbooks.

The vast majority of craft-related textbooks, for use by examination groups, tend to cover many materials, as this helps the student to see the integrated nature of Craft, Design and Technology, and how tools and material-based skills can be employed in solving a variety of problems.

Each sheet contains instructions as to the traditional tools and techniques needed to achieve a well-crafted timber construction. The layouts could have been more orderly, but perception improves with use. At the base of each are five questions enabling the user to assess their progress. The sheets are more likely to be used on CPVE or BTEC courses or on wood-work-related further education courses.

A great deal of useful teaching material is contained within the pack, but, as it stands, a large number of the 46 sheets would remain unused, as those involved with teaching CDT in this future will have to be very selective as to the content of their teaching materials in relation to i.e.a. examination syllabuses.

Children's Books III

Celebrating two thousand titles

Queen Puffin

DAVID SELF

"Every children's author wanted to be Puffin-ed." If that is no longer quite as true as it once was, it was certainly the case during the golden years of children's publishing when it was also a notable tribute to "Queen Puffin". Earlier this year, Penguin Books gave a dinner to celebrate her silver jubilee in children's publishing and (despite) her modest denials it is quite fitting that the two thousandth Puffin should be her completion of extracts from 50 favourite stories, *I Like This Story*.

If proof was ever needed, Kaye Webb's achievements show that to be a good editor is to be creative and not merely efficient. By the age of 15, she was working for *Mickey Mouse Weekly*, answering children's letters at 2d a time. As "George", she performed a similar task for the pre-war *Picture Post* and then applied for the job of "lady editor" of *Caravan World*. Without ever having been in a caravan, she got the job. Journalism was in her blood. Her father worked on the *Daily Herald*, her mother was drama critic for the *Irish Times*.

In 1961 she then Mrs Ronald Searle



When she moved on to Hulton Publications, she was a little miffed to find she was at first "only" a secretary. Then the war started and many of the men were called up. Kaye Webb was rapidly promoted. She worked on *Picture Post* and eventually became assistant editor of *Lilliput*. My own memories of that magazine are childhood ones of going with my mother each month to post it away to my father and of sensing that that particular copy would be read by half the British

joined Penguin as editor of their Puffin Story Books series. It had started back in 1941 and its editor for those 20 years had been Eleanor Graham. She had published about 150 titles. "It was an admirable list," says Kaye Webb, "but the covers were awful." Allen Lane, the founder of Penguin, seems to have simply "tolerated" the series, putting little money into it and paying it even less attention. His biographer, J E P Morpurgo, is franker. "He suspected that the list was conventional, even

'fuddy-duddy'."

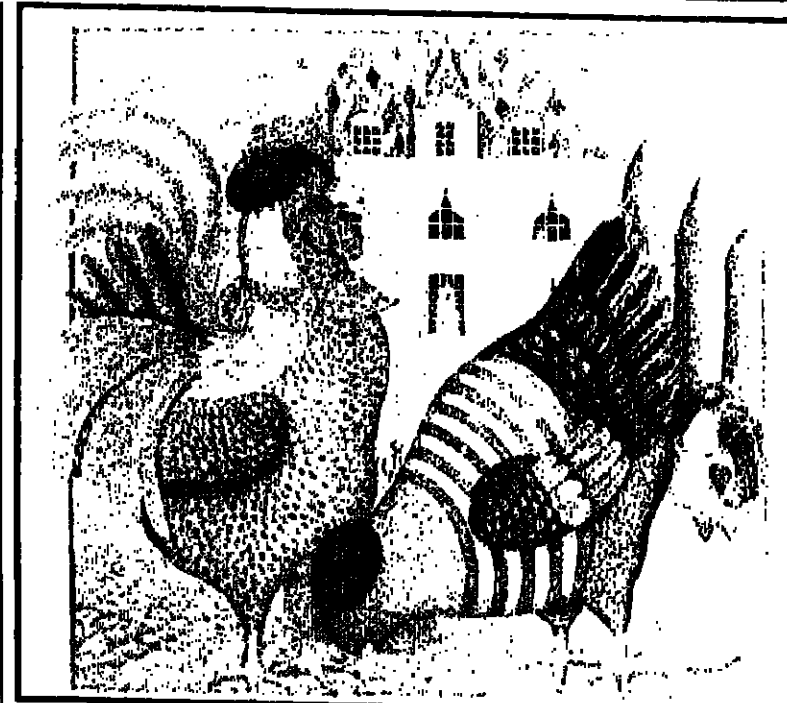
While Kaye Webb admits her ignorance about children's books at that time, she nevertheless knew her priorities. "I went from one bookshop to another. I'd say, 'Where are the Puffins?' and they'd look vague." She decided she must get Puffins, known as a series. She also needed to learn what to publish. "I went into libraries to see which books children actually borrowed for themselves. I read all that had been written about children's reading." Then she persuaded Allen Lane to let her publish more books and to improve their covers.

In her first five years at Penguin, she increased the number of Puffins published by 50 per cent and increased sales by 300 per cent with titles such as *Mary Poppins*, *The Hundred and One Dalmatians* and *A Bear Called Paddington*. Allen Lane began to take interest. According to Morpurgo, he now saw Puffins as "the persuaders, the educators, the means to establish the firm's corps of future Penguin readers". He supported his editor's pleas to keep their prices as low as possible. As she recalls, "The really great thing about Allen Lane was that he didn't try to make money out of Puffins. He honestly used to say, 'Swings and roundabouts. We're making readers, that's the main thing.'"

All this coincided with the explosion in children's fiction. Suddenly there were new, good writers. School bookshops were starting up, there was money for libraries and Kaye Webb was proving she had a sure touch in selecting titles. She now knew exactly what she was after. "A child must feel that their expectation has been increased... A book must be honest, true, not facile." She has developed her creed in a foreword to a Puffin catalogue. "We spread a wide net, insisting on genuine invention, integrity, quality of writing and an ability to communicate with the young."

The Puffin empire began to expand. The Young Puffins, New Puffin Picture Books and Peacocks (a less successful series for older readers) all had their distinctive, colourful styles. All were promoted by her instinct for good publicity. There was the "Nuffin like a Puffin" jingle and then the Puffin Club, something she had long hankered after. Management was less keen. When she mentioned the idea at a sales conference, the reps applauded. "Looks as if Kaye's got her club," said the sales manager. Within five years, a hundred thousand members had enrolled.

continued on following page



From *The Twelve Days of Christmas* reviewed on page 38.

The £7,000 grand prize winner of this year's Smariles Prize for Children's Books is Jenny Nimmo for her magical fantasy *The Snow Spider*, published by Methuen in their Puffin series at £5.50. This also won £1,000 in the 7-11 section. Winner of £1,000 in the under 6 category was Geoffrey Patterson for *The Colour that Laid the Golden Egg* (Deutsch £5.95). The £1,000 prize for "innovation" was shared between *Cape's Mirrorstone* (£7.95) which uses photographs, and *Village Heritage* Alan Sutton £10.95 by Miss Pinnell and the children of Sapperton School which tells the history of Sapperton in the Cotswolds. The panel of judges for 1986, the second year of the prize, were author and headteacher Bernard Ashley, Floella Benjamin, Roger McGough, Bing Taylor, one of the founders of *The Good Book Guide* to Children's Books and Judy Taylor, whose biography of Beatrix Potter is reviewed on page 44.

The shortlist for the Enid/Kurt Maschler Award for "a children's book in which text and illustration are both excellent and perfectly harmonious" has been chosen from 104 entries. They are *The Jolly Postman* by Janet and Allan Ahlberg (Heinemann £5.95), *Where's Julius?* by John Burningham (Cape £5.95), *Early in the Morning* by Charles Causely with music by Anthony Castro and illustrations by Michael Foreman (Viking Kestrel £7.95), *The Rain Door* by Russell Hoban, illustrated by Quentin Blake (Gollancz £5.95), *The Doorbell Rang* by Pat Hutchins (Bodley Head £5.25) and *Stanley Bagshaw* and the

Short-sighted Football Trainer by Bob Wilson (Hamish Hamilton £6.50). The winner, to be announced on November 20, will receive £1,000 and a bronze statue of Enid, Erich Kaestner's famous character.

The winner of the Children's Category of the Whitbread Award is *The Coal House* by Andrew Taylor (Collins £5.95).

Faber and Faber, the *Guardian* and BBC Television's *Jackanory* announce a new book prize, to be awarded to the author of a children's story for seven to eleven-year-olds. Only previously unpublished authors may enter. The winning author will receive £2,500 and the winning entry will be published by Faber and Faber and produced on *Jackanory*. The panel of judges will include Stephanie Nettell, children's books editor of the *Guardian*, Angela Beecham, executive producer of *Jackanory*, and Gene Kemp, well-known children's author and winner of the Carnegie Medal and the Other Award.

Entries should be between 20,000 and 30,000 words in length, typed on one side of the paper in double spacing; no handwritten entries will be considered. The closing date for submissions is May 30, 1987, and no late entries will be eligible. The winner of the competition will be announced on the Children's Book Page in the *Guardian* and on BBC Television in September 1987. Entry forms may be obtained from Faber and Faber, "Children's Book Competition", 3 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AU, on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

How a Book Is Made

written and illustrated by
Aliki

This new picture book explains, in meticulous

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Dream journeys

NAOMI LEWIS

wait. What is that window-cleaner? Who makes the tick-tick, drip-drip sounds? asks child in bed with teddy. But monsters are fun! Monsters are your friends! Monsters are good for you! Sleep well. A nursery favourite here. I shouldn't wonder.

Now for a group of story-fantasies. The Rain Door by Russell Hoban and Quentin Blake (Gollancz £5.95) is a wild frolic full of verbal and other feats, just kept in hand by Hoban's unflinching rendering of the extraordinary detail. On a hot day in London, young Harry gets through the rain door, finds old man Rainmaker with his rag and bone cart, his horse called Lightning, and a thunder-making lion in pursuit. To scare the lion Harry makes a dinosaur out of metal scrap, hosiery, bones and things - you never saw the like. In a marvellous climax, Harry drives the rain cart through the rain road of the sky over his own part of London. What a deluge! What an experience! What pictures too!

Accept that a restaurant cat can also be the resident violin player and you step right into Benedict Blathway's enchanting *Bruno's Band* (Julia Macrae £6.25). Everyone comes not only to eat but to hear Bruno play. But when the (human) owners Carlo and Maria go on a long holiday, Bruno is driven out by the stand-in people, who have no use for cats. In his wanderings he is joined by a dog, a parrot and a railway cat, all musically gifted, and they earn their keep as a band. Chance brings them back to the restaurant, where Maria and Carlo sit sadly, all their custom gone since Bruno left. But they now have a band! The band has a home! The customers flock back! Rejoicings for everyone. The vivacious pictures add to the charm of the whole.

The Little Jewel Box by Marianna Meyer and Margot Tomas (Methuen £6.50) is a delectable new fairy tale made up of some of the best traditional motifs - wish-box (like Aladdin's lamp), helpful mouse, frog, hawk, impossible tasks to do overnight, vanishing castles - and something different, a no-nonsense young girl.

Winter's the time for comfort, for celebratory books for young children tend to produce joy out of sorrow like a rabbit out of a hat.

In Christopher Wants a Party Myra Lobe and Winfried Oppenorth (Ox-

ford £4.95) explore the vivid world of a young boy's fantasy and bridge the gap between his life in a tiny flat with no room for a party and the imaginative sympathy between him and his parents. They come up with a very practical solution - redecorating his bedroom - which is all the more comforting for that.

Jack Harvey and Ann Thwaite are more obviously imaginative in Gilbert and the Birthday Cake (Hutchinson £5.95). The absentminded eponymous frog leaves his grandfather's birthday cake on a train but rescues it with the aid of his bicycle. We feel for Gilbert, a trembling amphibian, and deep satisfaction attaches to the completion of his mission. Also deeply satisfying is *Santa's Special Day* (Mantel £2.30) by Maggie Paun and Karen Mezek in which a Punjabi family celebrates Halloween. A firm favourite to be read

Less dramatic a celebration for Jo, the young heroine of *Through my Window* (by Tony Bradman and Eileen Browne, Methuen £4.95) who has to stay in bed for a whole day waiting for her mom to bring her home. A present from work, Jo is a mixed-race child who lives in some friendly multi-cultural flat; unfortunately, the writing is a bit flat too, but the illustrations are spot-on.

The Deer Bell Rang by Pat Hutchins (Bodley Head, £5.25) has a similar

When the farmer's sons go into the world, each may choose an animal stallion; the second's a fierce boar. But Crispin, the third and youngest, asks for a tiny piglet, runt of the litter. And how lucky he is. For the little pig is a dancer, and together they do well. But the spoilt princess wants to see the pig and forces Crispin to part with him. Well, the little thing knows her own mind. The right ones in the tale live happily ever after.

The Proud and Fearless Lion by Ann and Reg Cartwright (Hutchinson £5.95) follows the Cartwright No.1 Ark and (still better) Mr Potter's Pigeon; you know the style. When the proud and fearless lion loses his nose shelter in the rain (the other animals join to find a cure. So when they are caught and caged to be sold to circus, lion sets out to rescue them, and the flight. Appealing detail in the telling lion; bold, uncluttered pictures for the younger young.

Fittingly kept for the end is *Story by Nancy Willard and Lisa Paine* (Methuen £6.50) an enchanting tale of action and idea at seven-and-under level. It's a dream journey with a line or two of text, printed in winding curve, now up, now down, on every left hand page. But the phrases stay in the mind. "I took the night train in the country where nothing lasts. I stopped at the night market where nothing is sold. Where all is given and nothing is given for keeps." A dream mouse is replaced in turn by a dream cat, a dream mouse, a dream wolf; so at last the story to the room at home "where nothing changes." The whole thing might not have worked, but it does. Indeed it does.



From Miss Fanshawe and the Great Dragon Adventure

Celebration time Winter warmers

VICTORIA NEUMARK

ford £4.95) explore the vivid world of a young boy's fantasy and bridge the gap between his life in a tiny flat with no room for a party and the imaginative sympathy between him and his parents. They come up with a very practical solution - redecorating his bedroom - which is all the more comforting for that.

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continued next page

When is a book not a book?

Flap, flash, pop

CHRIS POWLING

Curious Creatures, Puzzle People, Animal Allsorts. By Helen Oxenbury. Methuen/Walker £2.95. *Paddington's Clock Book*. Paddington's London. By Michael and Karen Bond. Illustrated by Toni Goffe. Hutchinson £3.95 each. *The Great Race*. By Stephen Wyllie and Ann Axworthy. Methuen £4.95. *The Snowman*. By Raymond Briggs. Ron Van der Meer. Hamish Hamilton £8.95. *Ben's Box*. By Michael Foreman. Hodder and Stoughton £7.95. *A Christmas Carol*. By Betty Ren Wright and Victor Ambrus. Methuen £6.95. *The Earth is a Sundial*. By Mitsumasa Anno. Bodley Head £9.95. *The Mirrorstone*. By Michael Palin / Alan Lee / Richard Seymour. Jonathan Cape £7.95. *The Jolly Postman*. By Janet and Allen Ahlberg. Heinemann £5.95.

Think of an object which has hands, wheels and a variety of moving parts... which presents a series of three-dimensional models plotting technological progress in a crucial area of human experience... which exploits traditional theatre design to delight us... laser-generated imagery to amaze us... visual and verbal jokes to draw our attention to its own cleverness... and, to cap it all, plays us a tune.

Give up? I'm not surprised. The answer is a book. Each of these attributes, and more, are on offer this Christmas neatly packaged between traditional hardcovers.

Some, of course, have roots deep in literary history. There's not much that's new in the re-issues of Helen Oxenbury's *Puzzle People*, *Curious Creatures* and *Animal Allsorts* (for instance - each page a three-way split, like a game of consequences, offering 720 possible combinations of text and

illustration. What is bang up-to-date, though (apart from the Oxenbury draughtsmanship) is the spiral spine and the laminated surfaces: Walker production-values at their best. These are play-books which will actually survive being played with. So will Michael and Karen Bond's *Paddington's Clock Book* with its built-in clockface and *Paddington's London* bus-shaped book youngsters can trundle across the floor. Using both, presumably, they could even keep to a timetable. What better training in these days of de-regulation?

The Great Race, by Stephen Wyllie and Ann Axworthy seems less ergonomic. Fitting tabs in slots to vary a



Jack's postcard to the Giant from The Jolly Postman.

Tough and bright fighter

Juniper. By Gene Kemp. Faber £5.95. 0 571 13902 7

Role reversal, where the child is parent to the adult, is more common in society than many suppose - and it's a theme which lies here in the deeper levels of a plot whose surface is fast moving and mysterious. Juniper, with an arm and a half and a depressed tinset of a mother, takes her handicaps in her stride and runs full tilt through the clever mists of the thriller to its final cliff-hang and unravelling. Refusing token offers of help from an unpleasant set of better-off relatives as you'll find outside Dickens, Juniper darts about in a stream of consciousness, waking dreams in a panicked attempt to come to terms with an apparently dark and chilling piece of family history. And

there is much else in the well woven mystery which is only apparent.

In Juniper herself, Gene Kemp has found a female hero with the will and the resource inner city children need if they're to survive: an up-and-down tough and bright little fighter with a soul; while in old Nancy next door, a survivor from her own hard times, Kemp shows the same sure touch with adult character. In a book rich with recognizable inventions only Ranjit, Juniper's Sikh friend, refuses to be more than stilted dialogue on the page.

Reminiscent of Roy Brown at his best, this is the best of Gene Kemp - a quirky, individual, perceptive and brilliant book; a mystery that both moves and changes the reader.

Bernard Ashley

Stages to maturity

Happy Endings. By Adele Geras. Hamish Hamilton £6.95. 0 241 11889 1

At the beginning of *Happy Endings* Mel Herbert, the narrator, is confined to bed with a broken ankle. A friend has brought her a notebook instead of a more conventional "get well" gift, and Mel describes in it the events of the last few weeks, events which have changed her life and incidentally, led to her present predicament.

She writes about the experiences of a group of young people who successfully audition for parts in *Project Three Sisters*. There is no attempt to be realistic or aggressive statements about racism or sexism or any other "ism". The aspiring actors are portrayed as being interested in the atmosphere of the theatre and concerned about personal relationships, their own and those of their friends. The pains and pleasures of love are experienced and discussed - the author has a keen ear for dialogue and these conversations sound as if they have been freshly

The theme is a familiar one in magazine stories and Mills and Boon romances, but Adele Geras' delicately ironic style saves it from sentimentality. Indeed, there mercifully are still girls who, like the sixteen-year-old heroine, have yet to experience their first kiss, and who worry about where the noses go, and what happens to your breathing and how long it is meant to go on for. The characters are sharply observed, and the link between them and the characters they are acting is indicated but not over-emphasized. As one of them says "Three Sisters" is about what young people everywhere are best at doing. That is dreaming... learning to live with disappointment, with second best, without your heart's desire. Chekhov's play is about living in the future, or the past, about the impossibility of grasping the present. It's a description which could be applied to this book. There is not one glorious curtain followed by rapturous applause and then darkness, but a series of beginnings and endings of all shapes and sizes.

Barbara Sherrard Smith

Allsorts

Books to Break Barriers: a review guide to multi-cultural fiction, 4-18. Oxford Development Education Centre £2.25

This is a smartly produced, critically and helpfully annotated guide to 300 current fiction titles, compiled by teachers and designed for use with parents and teachers in rural Oxfordshire. The starting point is a belief that "Children should be offered a range of literature which encourages respect for self and others, which accurately reflects the heterogeneous society in which we live and which encourages children to look beyond it." The range of titles offered and the useful quick reference grid which gives theme headings, eg social conflict, urban life, establishing personal identity, male/female roles and location and time setting for each title, meet this aim admirably. This is a useful and practical guide.

J E

Great unread?

In the Realm of Gold: the story of the Carnegie Medal. By Keith Barker. Julia MacRae Books £4.50. 0 86203 260 1. 50 Years of the Carnegie Medal. Compiled by Derek Lomas. Youth Libraries Group £1.50. 0 946581 053.

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Carnegie Medal, offering us the chance to reminisce and speculate on the influence the Medal may have had over the years on the high quality and range of today's children's books.

In the Realm of Gold is a thoroughly researched, critical assessment of the history of the Medal, the first major children's book award in Britain. In a compelling and readable manner, Keith Barker praises the efforts of early pioneers like Eileen Colwell to gain recognition for children's books and encourage quality

writing for children. He is rightly critical of the Library Association's embarrassingly poor record on publicity for its own medal, a damning indictment of the lack of early professional support for children's books. He addresses the problem of criticism of the Carnegie Medal books as the "great unread", suggesting that it may be necessary to accept that books of quality may not be widely popular with children. The balance between celebration and criticism is carefully controlled making this a useful contribution to thinking about the children's book scene.

Complementary to this is 50 Years of the Carnegie Medal, a commemorative review by Derek Lomas of all the Carnegie Medal winning books. Using the advantage of hindsight, Derek Lomas gives a very personal assessment of each book and its place (if any) in the reading of today's children.

Judith Elkin

Bard plus

Well-Loved Tales From Shakespeare. By Lord Bernard Miles. Illustrated by Victor G. Ambrus. Hamlyn £6.95. 0 600 30889 8.

One problem in adapting drama for a book is deciding just how to change a three dimensional form dependent on a live company and audience into a straight narrative. In his second collection from the Bard, *Well-Loved Tales* from Shakespeare, Bernard Miles adopts the rôle of benevolent storyteller - adding a little here and there combining modern dialogue with the old line from original texts, including complicated sub-plots to give some flavour of the plays' complexities, and choosing to write in the present tense for dramatic immediacy.

There is a great deal of authorial invention (a lengthy description of Rosalind disguising herself, Prospero building accommodation on his island, Falstaff's vital statistics and so on), and much narrator licence - a "flood" from Julius Caesar translated into a list of every Roman likely to process on the streets or Falstaff's babbling "a green fields" placed in a different play to add a tear or two.

Bernard Miles intends to make the characters "come alive" and he conveys a vivid sense of appearance, location and other effects normally the province of set, costume or lighting designers. This selection (*The Tempest*, *As You Like It*, *Othello*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Julius Caesar*) would be appreciated most when read aloud to a young audience or those unfamiliar with the plots so that language becomes easier to understand. When you are sitting comfortably these will be tales told and illustrated with affection, discretion and some pure unabashed sentimentality - not a trick is missed.

Jacqueline Fisher



One of Patrick James Lynch's illustrations (for the story "Jack and the Beanstalk") from Alan Garner's new tellings of English and Welsh folktales, *A Bag of Moonshine* (Collins £4.95), to be reviewed soon.

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MICHAEL HARDCASTLE No Defence	£3.95		

ANDRE DEUTSCH

PAPERBACKS

House of secrets Boston tea-party

JENNY GILBERT

It is common enough to hear an author decline the full credit for a book on the grounds that once the characters had been given shape "it just wrote itself". Lucy Boston, author of the Green Knowe books and now aged 94, goes one further: "the house wrote them," she says ingenuously. Indeed her house takes centre-stage in almost all her works - poetry, children's and adult fiction, and autobiography. *The Children of Green Knowe*, her first children's story written more than 30 years ago, is about to be serialised on BBC1 (beginning November 26 at 5.10pm), and the house might have dominated the cameras too, had Mrs Boston not balked at the idea of having her lovely four acres of topiary and old roses blanketed in artificial snow. (After protracted negotiations the series was eventually filmed elsewhere).

The house, called Green Knowe in the books, is more than just a beautiful building bordering the Ouse in Cambridgeshire. It is in fact a small Norman hall, dated confidently by scholars at 1120, complete with arrowslit windows and an overgrown moat. Inside, the sense of a density of other lives lived within its 30-thick walls is almost overwhelming. By day the sun streams in through grey stone arches as it has for nearly nine centuries, by night banks of candles are the chief source of light.

How Lucy Boston came to own this extraordinary house, and to restore it from what first appeared to be a semi-detached Georgian farmhouse, is another story (compellingly told by her in *Memory in a House*). Suffice to say that, as she gradually revealed its true character, the house showed her a new direction, and at the age of 60 she took up her pen.

In the books her home is recognisable in every detail, right down to the 16th-century patchwork curtains, but the characters - children who were told have lived there at various times - are imaginary. Such models of spirit

and inquisitiveness and charm would be hard to find in real life, yet they are never prissy. Tolly Oldknow is the present-day incumbent whose sense of history and mystery is enlivened by repeated friendly encounters with his Cromwellian ancestor, Toby, Alexander and Limerick, and the noble horse Feste all of whom appear in the television series.

Other stories feature the Regency period, where we learn of the evil slave trade from which the little negro Jacob escapes to find refuge at Green Knowe, and also of impending danger to the house itself, when its sickle adult owners are tempted to follow fashion and "get rid of Gorbie". The children of course save the day and ensure the house's future. First chronologically but last in sequence of writing is *The*

Stones of Green Knowe, which introduces Roger d'Aulneaux, son of the original owner, who proudly sees the place of the wood-and-mud Saxon one, and longs to know that it will endure. He gets his wish, of course, and finds himself via the well-worn device of time warp slip bang in the middle of the 20th century, wondering where all the forests have gone.

There has been talk of filming all the books. Lucy Boston is not displeased by the idea if it means still more children will read them, but is less sure about what "adaptation" will do to the spirit of her work, and about the merits of television itself (she does not own a set). "I don't think I'm didactic at all," she says, "but I do want to look and imagine and not take everything as stereotyped and fixed". She was annoyed to find, before the script was finalised, that the writer had interpreted the special magic of Green Knowe as common spookiness, a feature notably absent in the original. But then television has never been very strong on awe.

Nevertheless Lucy Boston is often asked - particularly by the hundreds of young visitors she has entertained over the years - if her house is haunted. Her usual reply is that in all her 50 years' residence alone, she has never felt alone. "My psychic antennae are useless," she admits, "but queer things do go on that can't be explained any other way" - the persistent tinkling of a servant's bell in an upper room long after the bells had all been taken out, and once, a sudden noise at night like a grand piano being dropped from a great height. "That got me out of bed I can tell you".

Jenny Gilbert

All six of the Green Knowe books by Lucy Boston are published in Puffin.

See here

Windrush, publishers of large-print books for visually handicapped adults, have listed the 10 adult children's titles to their list. The seven volumes of C S Lewis' *Narnia* Chronicles are, already available and modern authors as well as traditional favourites will now be published regularly. Examples include *The Secret Garden*, the *Enchiridion*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Tom's Midnight Garden*. All the titles are recommended by the National Library for the Handicapped Child. A full list is available from 1515 Large Print Books, 25 St Thomas Street, Oxford OX1 1JG.

How to choose

The Good Book Guide to Children's books.

Borgin £4.50, 0 14 009750 3
Children's Books of the Year 1986, National Book League £3.50, 0 85353 402 0
Margery Fisher Recommends Classics for Children and Young People
The Thimble Press £3.50, 0903355 20 5
Will You Read Me A Story? The parent's guide to children's books. By Tony Bradman.
Thorsons Publishing £2.50, 0 7225 1271 6.

The constant cry from teachers: "How can we keep up with all the children's books being published?" is partly met in the guides reviewed below. With reduced money for books in libraries and schools, it seems particularly important that money is spent wisely.

The Good Book Guide to Children's Books is the most attractive and reliable guide aimed specifically at parents. It covers 600 recommended books, from books for babies to teenage books, and covers fiction, non-fiction, folktales and poetry, each individually and informatively annotated. The arrangement in broad age and subject categories is helpful and easy to follow.

The guide, revised annually, is now in its fourth edition. It retains the attractive, colourful approach of earlier editions, although the number of titles reproduced in colour and the overall size and length of its production are reduced (from 78 to 64 pages). Last year's edition was, to my mind, the best to date, with introductory articles by well known figures, an extremely useful guide to children's encyclopaedias and a list of bookshops. All of these have disappeared from this new edition, as have the jokey illustrations by Tony Browne which pervaded last year's list and added to the fun and vitality of the production. This edition has a somewhat restrained and less stimulating feel about it, but remains an extremely useful initial guide for anyone, teacher or parent, coming new to children's books or wishing for guidance over building up a basic home library.

Children's Books of the Year 1986 is an annual guide to recommended books, both hardback and paperback, published in Great Britain during 1985/86. The selector for the second year is Julia Eccleshare who uses her experience as an editor, reviewer and parent to great effect. This is an excellent, soundly critical guide to the best of the year, invaluable for the teacher needing guidance on recent publications, all individually and helpfully annotated, within precisely useful sections, such as picture books, Beginning to Read, Early Reading, Fluent Reading, with the information books separated into People and Places. The

Living World, Science and Technology, etc.

In her introduction, Julia Eccleshare evaluates the year's publications, praising the general quality of picture books, bemoaning the lack of good quality books for readers of 7 to 11, other than poetry and folk tale, and the poor overall quality of many multi-cultural books. One particularly worrying observation for anyone concerned with the continuing vigour of children's books is the apparent dearth of new writers and illustrators.

Margery Fisher has been editor of *Growing Point* for 25 years and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of children's books. She uses this experience, together with reminiscences from her own childhood to offer a very personal, passionate introduction to *Classics for Children and Young People*. "A classic must be loved and expanded in different ways. A classic may date in superficial details but it must offer universal truths, universal values, to one generation after another, imperishable to the erosion of time."

The resulting list is a treasure trove of anecdote and research, a fascinating tour from Beatrix Potter to Alan Garner, from *Treasure Island* to *Tom's Midnight Garden*, divided into sections: the listening child; magic, new and traditional; animals as characters; neighbourhood tales; danger and adventure; landmarks; the production of books; and the contents are eminently readable: a lovely book guide to dip into, to remember books from childhood or to be introduced to books long out of mind which the teacher, the librarian and the child should not miss.

In contrast, Tony Bradman's *Will you read me a story?* is a much less well researched, less concisely written, but still equally passionate plea to parents to use, to share, to value books. His approach is not dissimilar to Dorothy Butler's *Read Aloud Handbooks*, but concentrating on how to find out about children's books rather than on lists of recommended books.

In a very personal way, he considers his use of books with his three children, all aged under eight. It is a readable and sensible account of what books can do for the young child at various different stages of their development, from night to night, to found the concentration on his own children (irritating at times and the use of homophonic rimes and puns). But there is great sense in the book and it is more accessible than more learned treatises. It is a pity that the production is so dull, but supplemented by the *Good Book Children's Guide*, it could be a useful starting point for new parents and new teachers.

Judith Ellis

Alice again

NICHOLAS TUCKER

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. Illustrated by David Hall. Methuen £9.95
Through the Looking-glass and What Alice Found There. Illustrated by Judith Todd. Gollancz £7.95.

And still they come: two more additions to the 120 or so different artists who have already tried illustrating these classic books. Older readers may always prefer Tenniel's originals but, as they are used to them, but judging from the disputes at the time himself never saw them as the final artistic word on his subject. Even so, I doubt he would have approved at all of David Hall's illustrations, originally got up for Walt Disney in 1959 and then forgotten. These are more Gormenghast than Wonderland, with the "Queen of Hearts" "Off with her head!" inspiring a Gothic double page spread complete, with hangman's noose, hooded figures and vast guillotine cranked up by tolling galley-slaves. Alice herself oscillates from Disneyesque pigtails and blushing cheeks to the

partly adolescent, other characters, human or animal, tend to be hairy and wary, so unappealing it is small wonder Disney preferred to start afresh when finally devising his film of Alice's adventures in 1951.

In contrast, Judith Todd provides light without shade in his illustrations, with meticulously drawn detail standing out against seemingly translucent backgrounds. His Alice is a pretty brunette in the manner of the original Alice Liddell, and while lacking movement his pictures do convey an atmosphere of dream, albeit untouched by Carroll's occasional nightmares. At times Todd adds his own comments to the text, just as Tenniel did when he made the Duchess so strikingly ugly or placed on the Hatter's top the now famous 10/6, without which he would now seem incomplete. In his turn Todd transforms the "curious things" on the shelves of the sheep's little dark shop into charming Victorian toys and automations and elsewhere illustrates the book's chess game motive in various ingenious ways. Coupled with his illustrated *Wonderland*, already published, this duo would make an excellent Christmas present.

Other worlds

Clan Ground. By Clare Bell. Gollancz £7.95, 575 03888 8
The Quelling Eye. By John Gordon. Bodley Head £5.95, 370 31011 X
Dragon Dance. By John Christopher. Viking Kestrel £6.95, 670 81030 4
Aliens in the Family. By Margaret Mahy. Methuen £7.95, 416 97360 4

First a welcome for Clare Bell's renewed inventiveness in *Clan Ground*, the sequel to *Ratha's Creature* (reviewed in TES 6.6.86.). On another planet/alternative world, millions of years in the past, intelligent cats (instead of primates) have developed language and a rudimentary society. They realize that they have become different from those cats they call the Un-Named, who have remained animals. In the first instalment of the saga, the feline heroine Ratha discovered how to tame fire, and became leader of the Clan. In the sequel the author continues to provoke her readers with situations which could have had parallels in mankind's evolution.

A strange cat comes from outside the Clan, and claims membership because he can speak. He does not, however, directly challenge Ratha's authority with his superior fighting skills. Instead he takes some fire from the Clan's communal supplies into a cave, pretending to store it in case of storms. Gradually this fire grows bigger and becomes the focus of a primitive religion. Cats sneak away from the main camp-fires to dance around and worship the fire in the cave. Ratha, once more driven out from the Clan, must devise a scheme to destroy the fire, and her rival.

My speculation that the cats would be limited in their move towards civilization without manipulative skills, has been answered by the introduction of new characters - friendly monkeys who can be trained to help the cats catch and perform other tasks. This allegory of fantasy series has much to offer thoughtful teenagers.

The new John Gordon is also significant, at least in the general run of teenage fiction, even though he has once again employed his typical trademark plot: a teenage boy and girl caught up in a magic spell and threatened by adult jealousies. Chuck and Tessa live in a valley with the shape of a hawk's head and body. Peregrine Falconer, whose family once owned the entire valley, is obsessed with an old prophecy which says he might fly at full moon. The magic in the valley also has a metamorphic effect on Chuck and Tessa, who at times become insect-sized. In the climax Falconer does fly, taking Chuck and Tessa with him.

Although Gordon has re-used motifs from his earlier fiction, the book is still outstanding in its use of language, and with its short, dramatic chapters and easily grasped plot it makes an excellent introduction to Gordon's work for the less than dedicated teenager.

After writing *Fireball* and *New Found Land*, the first two parts of a

trilogy, John Christopher has taken three years to bring it to a conclusion - and changed his publisher - signs perhaps that this conclusion was difficult to devise. *The Fireball* trilogy is set in an alternative world where scientific invention hasn't got off the ground, and the Roman Empire still rules - in 1981. Two teenagers from our world, straightforward Simon and knowall Brad, accidentally cross over by means of a fireball, and wherever they go they introduce a new invention which alters the balance of power. Having fled from Europe and found no sanctuary in America, they arrive in China as slaves. This is an empire ruled by the laws of Beis-Kun which assert the superiority of mind over matter.

Brad and Simon are sent to a mountain temple which Brad compares to Shangri-La, an obvious allusion to Hilton's *Lost Horizon*. Christopher has used this to furnish the rest of the plot, for in the temple they find an aged philosopher - Bei-Kun himself, centuries old - and a beautiful Chinese girl whose appearance belies her actual age. But when Brad escapes with Li Mei she does not die of old age, instead she picks his brains for military secrets, and overthrows the boy-emperor. Although this volume has less explicit violence and torture than the other two, the implications of his fate are still nasty: "since others might claim he was still alive... he must die publicly... And so that the citizenry should properly mark and remember it, the execution would last from dawn until dusk".

For a more enjoyable and still thought-provoking read we turn to *Aliens in the Family*, the only one in this group which I would recommend for under-12s. Mahy has taken an idea from science fiction - the alien disguised as a human - and varied it with a detailed study of the family which the alien disrupts. His name is Bond, he is a Gulgonguan, and has been set an initiative test to perform on Earth before he can pass on to the next stage of his studies.

Thinking that he is pursued by a rival gang of aliens who want to steal the secrets of his civilization, he takes shelter with three New Zealand children. They have their own problem: Dora and Lewis are hostile to their tomboyish step-sister who is visiting them for the first time. As far as they are concerned, she is an alien from outer space. The adventure they have with Bond reconciles them, and also sorts out their relationships with their respective step-parents.

Attracted by the cover picture showing a green glowing alien, reluctant readers could find themselves caught up in a story of quality, with writing that avoids cliché. There is also a Hippo paperback (£1.50, 590 7557 1). This novel actually originated as a paperback for the educational series Scholastic, (the New Zealand division); the hardback is a reprint with an enlarged typeface - and uncorrected printing errors.

Jessica Yates

Death watch

King Death's Garden. By Ann Halam. Orchard Books £6.95, 85213 003 2.
The Stone Haunting. By Del Mooney. Methuen £6.95, 416 59551 2.
Charles Keeping's Book of Classic Ghost Stories. Blackie £8.95, 216 92012 4.

Once upon a time, ghost stories had titles such as "Ghoulish, Grim and Gruesome" and came complete with matching prose and artwork. A see-through spook and a tombstone were compulsory for the cover. In those days, you also had to be at least a bit aristocratic in order to be haunted. Then, a few years ago, the ghost story moved into the mainstream of modern children's fiction and social realism became the order of the day. Ghosts began to haunt typewriters, supermarkets and even the school inventories. The victim was now your actual average child; somebody with whom teachers thought your average reluctant reader might identify.

If the present trio of new books indicates any sort of trend the ghost story is now moving off upmarket. In *King Death's Garden* the young hero is an enigmatic self-confessed upmarket who can't get much more upmarket than that. His hearty mother has chucked in her bont business and followed her husband to the Gulf. Young Maurice is staying with a great aunt while spending a last term at Fairsen Comprehensive (near Brighton on Racecourse) and being fairly scornful about reading *Keats* and the class. His Lycett's local history expeditions and the behaviour of the "animals" in 2M.

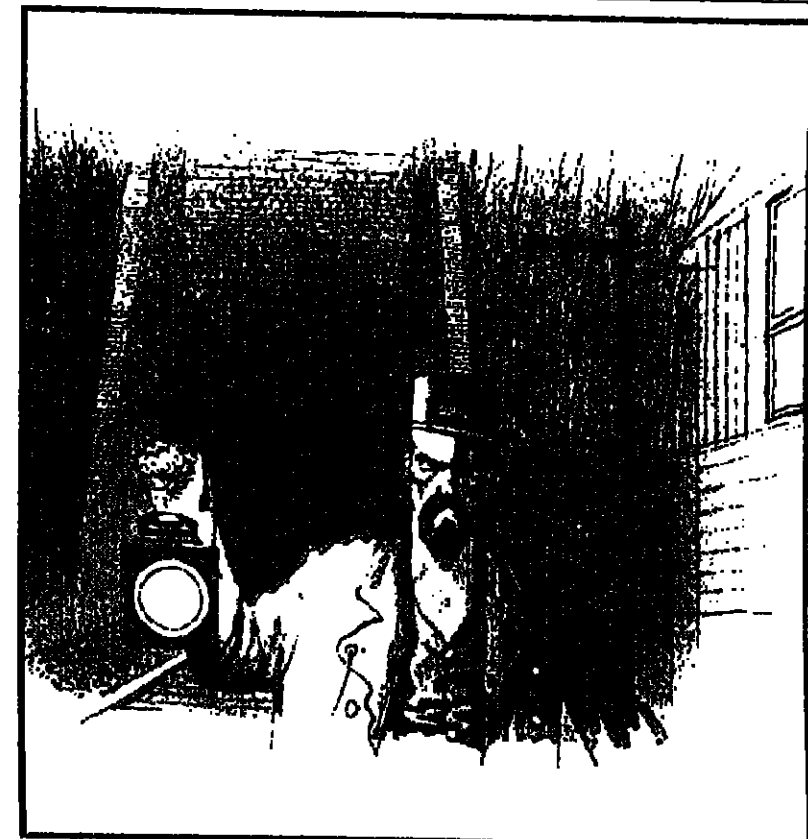
King Death's Garden is a local cemetery where he finds escape and the ability to travel backwards in time. Although unable to control his travel, he becomes addicted and, at the same time, attempts to unravel research into the supernatural begun by a professor to whom his great-aunt was once housekeeper. Often funny, it is spiced with the sort of satire that appeals to intelligent 12-year-olds and will

origins in a similar quest for historical truth. *Isaac Camplon* is framed by two letters purporting to be from the son of a real-life Lancashire horse dealer whose childhood, early this century, is depicted as being little more than a daily grind of unpaid slavery in his father's stables. As a despised and abused younger son, he wishes to inherit neither his father's vengeful temperament, nor his trade. "That was my whole world. Eating and sleeping with horses. Shut in with them. Shut in my father's world. I was. And that was all my born days, and all the future I could see. I was wondering why it was you were born and didn't have any choices." This sense of being trapped will be familiar to any modern teenager who feels himself tied to some no-hope future. Although Isaac Cam-

plon escapes from a life of horse-dealing, he carries with him to his dying day embittered memories of a brutal father attempting to break him in just the same way that he breaks in the Irish yearlings.

Jenni Howker succeeds in conveying the ponderous manner of speech of an old fellow's recollections, repetitive yet enlivened by anecdotal surprises. As when the narrator and his pals wickedly persuade the village idiot to swallow live midpoles, or when the young 12-year-old prepares a prize mare for mating. But the subsequent moralizing of an old man, and his ranting memory of past injustice blinkers the often vivid reality of the stable boy's experience.

Rachel Anderson



Charles Keeping's illustration for "The Signalman"

flatter loners and non-conformists. It is also genuinely quite frightening which can be the only justification for the publisher giving away the ending on the back.

The slightly younger hero of columnist Mrs Jonathan Dimbleby's *The Stone Haunting* is also designed to appeal to young *Guardian* readers. Daddie is a doctor, mother is thinking of getting into hand loom weaving. Both have opted out of London and are gentrifying a former West Country rectory. "Extra central heating... more bookshelves... pine kitchen units." The builders discover an old kitchen stove with which young Daniel feels a strange affinity. Rapidly we are back in 1835 with Daniel as kitchen boy (although also with his modern personality) and off we go on a thinly disguised history lesson about the Tolpuddle Martyrs and the iniquities of the landowners. The fact that Daniel is incapable of using his modern

David Self

Horse sense

Isaac Camplon. By Jenni Howker. Julia MacRae £5.95, 0 86203 270 9

When today's schoolchildren are despatched to interview all the wrinkles down their street, they often discover less about social history, more about some childhood feud, long forgotten by the rest of the community, which festers on in the heart of the victim. Jenni Howker's new novella has its

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EXTRA

A book in the making

Shared authorship

ALISON PRINCE

Writing, I have always thought, is essentially personal. This risked instantly to mind when Geoff Swallow, the Literature Officer of Lines and Humberside Arts, came to lunch in the autumn of 1985 and put forward an extraordinary suggestion. He would like, he said, an author to write a book in conjunction with the children in a school, involving them in the creative process from start to finish. "A Primary school," he added, "in the fens somewhere. They don't get much of anything out there."

Could writing really be shared in such a way? Not without misgivings, I agreed to give it a try. A previous residency in a comprehensive school had established me as the centre of a kind of revolutionary cell in an otherwise militaristic establishment, but a primary school might be all right. Reassurance arrived like a warm hug when I went to Horbling Brown's C of E school. Its 46 children were cheerful and relaxed without being in the least bit silly, and a small black cat had established itself as a member of the class. Chris Gudgeon, the headmaster, taught the older group of 21 children, aged seven to eleven (with whom I would be working), and here again, I knew it would be all right.

Chris had such a clearly-defined interest in the educational side of the scheme that his work with the children turned out to have a great feel-back value to the book itself. As an ex-teacher, I admired his unflinching enthusiasm and agreed completely with his aims. The work in the school was undertaken seriously, and yet with great enjoyment.

It was essential to the scheme that the book should be a "proper" one, with a normal publishing contract - but I could not even start to outline a synopsis without consulting the 21 co-authors. It threatened to be a Catch 22 situation, but Marilyn Malin came to the rescue with a contract on the basis of a title I had dreamed up some years ago - "How's Business".

At that stage there was nothing to the book except this title and the eponymous hero, whom I imagined to be the kind of boy whose private interests are very much more important to him than the minor matter of going to school. I put this idea to the group as a basic kicking-off point when we met for the first time on a January morning, and suggested that we might start by thinking about How. What sort of boy was he?

The children were earnest and helpful, trying to be obliging, but having a little grasp of how to proceed as I did myself. Ideas came in an indigestible mass. He could have his hair dyed three different colours. He could go in a space ship, live in a deserted scenic railway by the sea, buy and sell insects.

I went away confused, with a sheaf of notes which seemed only to destroy what small, tenuous concepts I had begun to formulate. But I was determined that the project should be an honest one. I was not there to push the children into any pre-conceived plans. Ultimately, as everyone agreed, it

appeared in a family publication disarmingly named *The Happy Mag*, its very title radiating a general optimism now very far away even though it only closed in 1940. But writing for an adult as well as a child audience enabled Richmal Crompton to give full rein to her delicious sense of irony, much in evidence in well-chosen references scattered throughout this admirable biography, including the famous parody of Christopher Robin ("Anthony Martin is milking a cow.") There is also the moment when vain Lady Atkinson asks William what he thinks of the large signed photograph of herself intended as her Christmas present to others.

"William gazed at it critically. 'It's not as fat as you are,' was his final offering at the altar of truth." What a delightful teacher Richmal Crompton must have made before being forced to retire, and what a lovely aunt to her nephews and nieces. Turning from her to *Beatrice Potter: artist, storyteller and countrywoman* is to substitute the creaky lakelanders for the tree-lined suburbs. Much of Judy Taylor's biography is already well-known, though she uncovers a splendid Edwardian scandal in which Beatrice Potter joined Jimmie Puddle-duck to her smooth-talking, embezzling Mr. Tod of a publisher Harold Warr. But the main story of a cramped, companionless child finally flowering into a happily married successful hill farmer makes excellent reading, with Peter Rabbit and co. stepping stones to the final freedom from possessive parents and enforced

urban idleness she always longed for. Looking at the book's numerous photographs of her stumping round sheep shows or heading at the camera surrounded by equally tough male farmers, it seems a little surprising that she wrote little in later life. As she puts it herself, "Somehow when one's up to one's eyes in work with real animals it makes one despair of paper-book animals."

Never one to suffer children gladly, particularly "the modern child" pampered and spoiled with too many toys and books, she brought a welcome strain of country realism to her stories, with rabbits sometimes ending up in a pile and pigs admired for more than their good looks. Her prose is still a model of how to write for small children; her illustrations, over which she also took so much trouble, show her warmer side, reaching back to the little girl within her who once used to put all her thwarted affection into her pets. Their combination created the best picture books ever produced, kept small on her own insistence that "Little rabbits cannot afford to spend six shillings on one book." She also saved large tracts of Lake District scenery when it was coming up for grabs, and Judy Taylor's well-researched biography is a just reminder of how much we are in her debt. It also records many acts of kindness in her long life towards adults and children, impossible to guess at for those who only saw the gruff exterior and were never invited any further in.

Nicholas Tucker

Past continuous

Backtrack, By Peter Hunt.
Julia Macrae £7.25, 0 86 203 272 5

Intricate patterns of chronology and topography dominate each of Peter Hunt's previous novels, as their titles, *The Maps of Time* and *A Step off the Path* suggest. Here they are again in "Backtrack," an ingenious whodunit in which frozen "scells" of historical evidence are variously put together in an attempt to reconstruct the moving picture of what actually happened.

Sixteen-year-old Jack regularly goes fishing near Elmcoke Junction in lovely Herefordshire, where a viaduct spans the river and where, 70 years ago in 1915, a train plunged off the track in circumstances which remain mysterious. Eight people were killed; others received medals for rescue work, among them two of Jack's great great uncles, and Sir Edward Marks, the

Minister for Military Supply, whose great great niece, now boarding at a neighbouring girls' school, shares Jack's desire to investigate.

The accident and its setting are powerfully evoked as the youngsters gather information from usually, but not always, reliable sources: press cuttings, Government reports, a great-aunt's diary, the literature of locomotives, testimony on tape from an oral history project.

If only the living were as quick as the dead. Jack and Rill (short for Amari-lis) converse in unrelentingly jocular banter to parody their respective roles of peasant and plutocrat. Arch archisms typifying JPs and barristers also permeate the narrative which is largely determined by Jack's thoughts. Where did he pick up the habit of saying "or" and "therein" and "rich variety"? I'll hazard a guess. According to the blurb, the author is a consultant in

Effective Communication, a technique which I take to include the substitution of plain words for polysyllabic circumlocution. "Requested to desist" is what you might write before acquiring the approved simplicity of "asked to stop". Jack's observations, and hence the story, proceed by just such an alternation of affluence and deflation. Each burst of eloquence or sentiment is checked by a sardonic aside; each lyrical cadence debunked with clipped irony.

Not does self-deprecation stop at syntax. The plot punches itself with an occasional pop: hypothesis invalidates the test, and heroine complaint of boredom; Rill condones the first page in a footnote. Given a vital clue to the secrets of the past - "Cherchez la femme" - she declares "Seizi rubbish!" And when a reveal is in a final twist, some readers may agree with her.

Richard Caldecott, renowned for his series of picture books published between 1878 and 1885, died 100 years ago last February. Tucked away in a corner of the British Library is a modest but charming exhibition that celebrates his place as a pivotal figure in the English illustrative tradition. While arranged chronologically, the display has many lateral twists reflecting the strength of linear technique, sense of movement, and humour that characterize the work of artists before and after Caldecott.

The organizer of the exhibition, Brian Alderson, has - like Caldecott himself - the gift of saying much in little. Each item is accompanied by a concise comment spiced with Alderson's particular wit and perception. Picture books, he suggests, are "small universes, full of busy-ness, and the artist's job is to make them

school-boy scribbles, illuminated manuscripts, and an aunt's amateurish ABC. Examples are drawn from a wide range of artists, from Hogarth, Rowlandson and Blake (William) to Margaret Zemach, Sendak and Blake (Quentin). The necessary emphasis on print techniques is balanced by an overall rhythm and sheer fun, as in little John's blackbirds, Little Brooke's tug-of-war, and Beatrice Potter's fishing frog. For other smaller delights, see Bewick's exquisite Rabbits in a woodblock, the panoramic mounted at full stretch, and the colourful Doyles' frieze marching round the room above our heads.

Labels, exhibition notes and book list complement each other, together with Alderson's book, *Sing a Song for Sixpence* (Cambridge University Press, £25 and £9.95). It all adds up to an exhibition that rewards close and patient inspection by revealing subtleties of thought and visual treats the Great Panjandrum would have given his moribund board for, and which demote Alderson at his busy-est and



Much in little

Sing a Song for Sixpence: the English picture-book tradition and Randolph Caldecott.

British Library, London until January 25, 1987.

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Appointments vacant

Nursery Education	45
Headships	45
Other Appointments	45
Primary Education	45
Headships	45
Deputy Headships Senior Masters/Mistresses	48
Scale 2 Posts	48
Remedial and Special Needs Teaching Posts	51
Scale 1 Posts	48
Middle School Education	51
Headships	51
Deputy Headships Senior Masters/Mistresses	51
Art and Design	51
Craft Design & Technology	51
English	51
Home Economics	51
Humanities	51
Modern Languages	51
Physical Education	51
Social Studies	51
Other than by Subjects	51
Secondary Education	51
Headships	51
Deputy Headships Senior Masters/Mistresses	52
Remedial and Special Needs Teaching Posts	52
Scale 1 Posts	52

Art and Design	53
Careers	53
Commercial Subjects	53
Computer Studies	53
Craft Design & Technology	54
Economics & Business Studies	54
English	55
Geography	56
History	56
Home Economics	56
Humanities	57
Mathematics	57
Modern Languages	58
Music	59
Pastoral	59
Physical Education	59
Religious Education	60
Science	60
Speech and Drama	61
Technology	62
Other than by Subjects	62
Sixth Form and Tertiary Colleges	62
Headships	62
Deputy Headships Senior Masters/Mistresses	62
Scale 2 Posts	62
Scale 1 Posts	62
Special Education	62
Headships	62
Deputy Headships Senior Masters/Mistresses	62
Heads of Department	63
Scale 2 Posts	63
Scale 1 Posts	63
Music	63

Classified Advertisements

Index to Appointments vacant, Wanted and other classifications

Appointments in Scotland	64
Science	69
Other than by Subjects	69
Headships	65
Art and Design	65
Careers	65
Classics	65
Craft Design & Technology	65
Economics & Business Studies	65
English	65
Geography	66
History	66
Home Economics	66
Humanities	66
Mathematics	66
Modern Languages	66
Music	67
Pastoral	67
Physical Education	67
Religious Education	67
Science	67
Speech and Drama	67
Technology	68
Other than by Subjects	68
Preparatory Schools	68
Headships	68
Remedial and Special Needs Teaching Posts	69
Art and Design	69
Classics	69
English	69
Mathematics	69
Modern Languages	69
Music	69

Examiners	76
Miscellaneous	76
Peripatetic Posts	77
Colleges and Departments of Art	72
University Appointments	72
Research Posts	72
Fellowships, Studentships and Research Awards	72
Colleges of Higher Education	72
Heads of Department	72
Other Appointments	72
Community Homes and Associated Institutes	73
Other Appointments	73
Youth and Community Service	73
Administration	74
Local Education Authority	74
Administration General	75

Educational Psychologists	75
Lectures	79
Personal Announcements	78
Conferences	79
For Sale and Wanted	79
Holidays and Accommodation	79
Home Exchange Holidays	79
Field Study Centres	79
Partnerships	79
Properties for Sale and Wanted	79
Business Opportunities	79

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10 Montague Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 7EJ. Tel: 344825. 10 places + 10 part-time places. Headteacher: Mrs. J. E. Smith. Closing date: 15th December 1986. An Equal Opportunity Employer. 100010

Headships

BERKSHIRE NEW BRIDGE NURSERY SCHOOL
10 Montague Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 7EJ. Tel: 344825. 10 places + 10 part-time places. Headteacher: Mrs. J. E. Smith. Closing date: 15th December 1986. An Equal Opportunity Employer. 100010

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BERKSHIRE NEW BRIDGE NURSERY SCHOOL
10 Montague Street,

Wiltshire

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



PRIMARY EDUCATION HEADTEACHER POSTS

Old Shaw County Primary School West Swindon, Group 5

Applications are invited for the headship of this new all-through primary school to be opened in September, 1987. The post is tenable from April next year.

West Swindon is an attractive, fast-growing development, ultimately of some 30,000 people, where the L.E.A. is opening about one primary school per year.

The successful candidate will have a sound knowledge of primary school development in the context of good modern primary practice, and the experience and personality required to manage the school successfully in a rapidly changing situation.

Application form and further details (S.A.E. please) available from Chief Education Officer, (P.O.), Sandford House, Sandford Street, Swindon, SN1 1QH, to be returned no later than 25th November, 1986.

St. Mary's C.E. Controlled Infants School George Lane, Marlborough, SN8 4BX Group 4 N.O.R. 177

Following the retirement of Mrs. E.M. Turner at the end of the Easter Term 1987, the Governors seek a well qualified, experienced and forward-looking infant teacher to take over the Headship. St. Mary's is a modern, open-plan school in the pleasant market town of Marlborough.

Application form and further details (S.A.E. please) from and returnable to the Chief Education Officer, Education Department (Ref. ST7/PM5), County Hall, Trowbridge, by 28th November, 1986.

All Cannings C.E. (Controlled) School All Cannings, Devizes, SN10 3PB Group 1, N.O.R. 71

RE-ADVERTISEMENT

A Head Teacher is required from April, 1987, owing to the appointment of Mr. N.J. Ruck to another post in the County. The Governors seek a well experienced teacher who will continue to lead and develop the school as a caring, forward-looking community. All Cannings is a pleasant village four miles to the east of Devizes.

Application form and further details (S.A.E. please) from and returnable to the Chief Education Officer, Education Department (Ref. ST7/PM5), County Hall, Trowbridge, by 28th November, 1986.

Previous applicants will be considered and need not re-apply.

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER POSTS

Liden Junior School, Liden Drive, Swindon, SN3 8EX Head Teacher: Mr. P.V. Lawton

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER - Group 6, N.O.R. 356

Required for April 1987, an enthusiastic class teacher with a wide experience of the Primary age range, and a proven ability to take a leading role in curriculum development.

Application forms and further details available from the Head Teacher at the school (S.A.E. please), to whom applications should be returned by 28th November, 1986.

Longleaze County Primary School Longleaze, Wootton Bassett, Swindon, SN4 0BA Head Teacher: Mr. A.R. Batterham, M.Ed.

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER - Group 6, N.O.R. (January 1987) - 228

Required for April 1987, for this primary school, which opened in 1978, a suitably experienced teacher capable of demonstrating a willingness to take a lead in curriculum development and to share in the management of the school.

Further details and application forms (S.A.E. please) available from and returnable to the Head Teacher at the school. Closing date 1st December, 1986.

Lowbourn County Infants School Lowbourn, Melksham SN12 7ED DEPUTY HEAD - Group 4, N.O.R. 135

Required from Easter 1987, a Deputy Head who is an experienced, enthusiastic and ambitious teacher, willing to take an active lead in curriculum development and school management. Please state curriculum strengths and interests.

Application form and further details from and returnable to (S.A.E. please) the Head Teacher. Visits welcome prior to application. Closing date: Friday, 21st November, 1986.

SCALE 1 POSTS

St. Mary's C.E. Controlled Primary School College Road, Purton SN6 9AR Head Teacher: Mr. D.W. Bisset

Group 5, N.O.R. 250

Scale 1 Teacher required initially to teach upper juniors. This is a permanent post commencing 27th April, 1987, or earlier if possible. Interest in girls' games an advantage. Applicants should also be willing to make a contribution to another area of the curriculum. Further details from (S.A.E. please) and letter of application with names of 2 referees, to the Head Teacher at the school.

Closing date 1st December, 1986.

Haig County Primary School Haig Road, Bulford Camp, Salisbury SP4 9NH Group 4, N.O.R. 146

Required for April 1987, Scale 1 NURSERY TEACHER for Self Contained 52 place purpose built Nursery Unit opened in 1978. Nursery training or experience in early childhood education is essential as is the ability to work and liaise with parents in this school for the children of Service families.

Candidates must be firmly committed to working co-operatively within the team of two teachers and two nursery nurses. Visits are welcome. Application form and further details (S.A.E. please) returnable by the 8th December available from the Head Teacher.

Fovant C.E. Controlled First School Tisbury Road, Fovant, Salisbury SP3 8JY Group 1, N.O.R. 27

Required for January 1987 to take a class of vertically grouped infants in this two teacher village school. A teacher willing to become involved in curriculum development with an interest in fostering good school and community links is sought.

Application form and further details (S.A.E. please) from and returnable to the Headmaster by the 28th November.

Toothill Primary School Stokeless Drive, Swindon, SN6 8DR Head Teacher: Mrs. A.P. Newton, N.O.R. 407

Required January 1987, a Scale one enthusiastic and committed teacher of infants for a large primary school.

Letter of application, c.v., and names and addresses of two referees to the Head Teacher at the school. Closing date 30th November, 1986.

PRIMARY HEADSHIPS

continued

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Equal Opportunity Employer
RECONSFIELD/CITILTERN
CHALFONT ST PETER
COUNTY FIRST SCHOOL
Lovel End, Chalfont St Peter,
Bucks.

Headteacher: Mrs C Dawson
11. Ed.

Required for April 1987, a well qualified and enthusiastic teacher for a Scale 2 post, to be responsible for the development of a mathematics programme throughout the school. The successful applicant will initially take a class of five year children.

Application forms and further details available from the Headteacher at the school. (Ref. ST7/PM5), County Hall, Trowbridge, by 28th November, 1986.

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HAMPSHIRE

NETLEY MARSH C.E.
CONTROLLED FIRST
SCHOOL
Netley Marsh, Woodlands,
Southampton SO4 6DY
N.O.R. 10 approx.
HEADTEACHER, Group 2
School
Salary scale currently £11,436
£12,675
Required April 1987.
Apply to Area Education
Officer, Canoe, 51, St. John's
Lymington, Hants. Enclosing
s.a.e. for further details and
application form.
Closing date 21st November
1986.
The County Council pursues
a policy of equality of opportunity.
Applications particularly
welcome from people with disabilities.
(30777) 110010

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HEADTEACHERS

Required April, 1987.

TIPTREE HEATH COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL (Group 4), Maldon Road, Tiptree, Colchester.

HENHAM AND UGLEY COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL (Group 4) revised group size, Henham, Bishops Stortford.

GT. BROMLEY, ST. GEORGE'S C OF E (CONTROLLED) PRIMARY SCHOOL (Group 2), Brook Street, Gt. Bromley, Colchester.

BULPHAN C OF E (CONTROLLED) PRIMARY SCHOOL (Group 2 + LFA £282 p.a.), Bulphan, nr. Upminster.

Relocation allowances payable in appropriate cases.

Please send foolscap s.a.e. for form and details to County Education Officer, P.O. Box 47, Threadneedle House, Market Road, Chelmsford, CM1 1LD.

Closing date: 5th December, 1986.

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PRIMARY HEADSHIPS

continued

MERTFORDSHIRE

HIGHOVER JAM SCHOOL
Cambridge Road, Hithin,
Mertford, Essex, SG4 0JP
Tel: Hithin 31954

Required from April 1987, a well qualified and enthusiastic teacher for a Scale 2 post, to be responsible for the development of a mathematics programme throughout the school. The successful applicant will initially take a class of five year children.

Application forms and further details available from the Headteacher at the school. (Ref. ST7/PM5), County Hall, Trowbridge, by 28th November, 1986.

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**SUFFOLK
COUNTY COUNCIL**
**ELM TREE MIDDLE
SCHOOL**
Harworth Avenue
Lowestoft NR35 9H
9-13. 438 Pupils

Required from the
mor term 1987, a
imaginative teacher
General Subjects. Sta
to teach a class of 9-10
old children.

An ability to offer
P.E. would be an as
toge.

Application forms
further details avail

WEST SUSSEX
THREE BRIDGES MIDDLE
SCHOOL
Olees Dale, Three Rivers

E Required Easter, 1987
 contribution to work of
 together with curri-
 strength(s) - ability to
 P.E./Games an advantage
 Application form from
 Education Officer, Giff
 House, Hornham Road,
 by on receipt of foulscap
 (34336) 1

Secondary Education

Headships

HAMPSHIRE
PIEBLANDS
COMPREHENSIVE SCH
 North Street, Pennington
 Lyndington SO41 8F2
 N.O.H. 860 approx
HEADTEACHER Group
 School
 Salary scale currently

Required September
Applications to Ar-
rington Officer Connaught
Lynton, Hants. E.
s.a.s. for further de-
application form. Close
28th November 1986
The County Council
a policy of equality of
tunity. Applications
early from people with
ties. (34389)

City Council
UNITIES EMPLOYER
AM SCHOOL,
WKERNE

**WIRELINE:
COMPREHENSIVE
(OR 742)
April 1987,
HEAD**

Further details from the Staff
on Department, County H
A1 4DY (see foolscan please

November 1986.

shire
COMMUNITY EMPLOYER
(Voluntary Aided)
Wingfield Road,
EM

TEACHER

Application forms are obtainable from the Governors, Mrs. M.L. Sturgis, Cowbridge, Wiltshire, by 28th Nov 1994 (4 envelope and 24p stamp).

SUNDERLAND
BOROUGH OF SUNDERLAND
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
HYLTON HED HOUSE

SCHOOL:
University of Reading, Sunderland
B5 9LN
(Group 12)
Report due for January, 1987.
or as soon as possible
if negotiable.
FIELD OF COMPUTER
STUDIES: Scale 3.
A suitably qualified and ex-
perienced person is required
to lead this already well
established department and to
develop the research and
formation technology and
services. The ability to
teach and to assist in the
teaching of Chemistry or Phys-
ics will be an advantage.
Application forms are
obtainable from the Head-
master. The address is given
on receipt of a stamped
addressed envelope con-
taining return by 15th
November, 1986. 1346751 132018

HEALTH EDUCATION LE & DOCTORS

OF SCIENCE
(Re-advertisement).
Studies of any science discipline, with
Education and curriculum matters,
and Chemistry (Scale 3) exist in the
key post in a large and complex
leadership qualities. There is a
which are well equipped
receipt of S.A.E.
curriculum vitae and a short letter
philosophy towards Science teaching
and addresses of two referees.

...sensibly qualified and experienced

FOR FOUNDATION STUDIES

Science and Social Studies (two days per week) of teachers' training for this area of the schools and college of further education at dates from 1st January, 1987 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Further information may be obtained from Chichester Teachers' Centre, 100, Westgate Street, Chichester GL1 2DX (S.A.E. please).

Applications should be returned within ten days of advertisement.

LEVEL 1 or 2 POST

MANDE SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM CENTRE

KEYBOARD SKILLS

...and developing vocationally related ability to teach in a variety of ... and applications by curriculum vitae to

LE 1 POSTS

HILL SCHOOL
 ...down, Gloucester GL3 2PL.

OF CHEMISTRY

terms and covers the maternity leave
notable includes 'A' level teaching

Y EDUCATION
ADSHIPS
TON C.P. SCHOOL
torton, Gloucester, Glos.
oll, 5-11 years)
-CHER (Group 4)
7.
n Chief Education Officer (Ref. TG11

2 POSTS

VILLAGE JUNIOR SCHOOL
 Gladwood, Glas. (220 on roll)
TEACHER
 a 4th year class and to be
 er Education throughout the
 ular development to the school
 interests.
 er enclosing names and addresses
 member (enclose S.A.E.).
E 1 POSTS
VILLAGE JUNIOR SCHOOL
 Gladwood, Glas. (220 on roll)

teacher for 1st year juniors: . . .

to Head Teacher (S.A.E. please)
INFANTS SCHOOL
 Sham GLEB-8HY. (253 on roll).
TEACHER
 c.v. and names and addresses of
 other.

County Council

ACTIVITIES FOR OVER

[illegible]

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SUTTON WALLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
WALLINGTON
 Wondrich Road, Wallington,
 Surrey SM6 0PJ
 Tel: 01-647 2380
 Applicant must be aged 18-25
 BIOLOGY (650 on roll)
 For January 1987. This is a
 full-time or part-time temporary
 post for two terms. The
 Biology Department is a lively
 innovative department and the
 successful candidate would
 be responsible for the school
 throughout the school
 including GCSE, A level and
 A level work. The post would
 be suitable for someone returning
 to teaching.
 Apply by 15th Dec to the Head-
 teacher, as soon as possible

TELFORD
BLESSED ROBERT
JOHNSON COLLEGE
Whitchurch Road,
Wellington, Telford TF1
3DY
Tel: Telford 3261

1987. Temporary, Full
time. Scale 1. Teacher of
Chemistry to 'O' and 'A'
level and some integrated
science.

Applications by letters to
the head as soon as possible
with names and addresses
of 2 referees. 134822
(36500)

WILTSHIRE

BRADON FOREST SCHOOL
Red's Piece, Furlong,
Swindon SN3 9RD

Head Teacher: Mrs. I. R.

**Comprehensive School -
N. 7 (September,
1985)**

**Required for January,
1987, possibly sooner to
cover the maternity leave of
the present holder, a
Scale 1 Teacher of Science
to teach Biology and
General Science to exam-
ination groups of years
four and five, as well as
having a combined science
course in the department.
Candidates should have
suitable experience and
confidence to fulfil the
national requirements of
the curriculum for
years four and five.**

**A job sharing arrange-
ment, involving the
appointment of two par-**

WILTSHIRE IS AN
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
EMPLOYER.
(31093) 134828

Speech and Drama

REDBRIDGE
CATHERHAM HIGH
SCHOOL

Please see main advert
under English Post - Scale 2
and above. (34872) 135220

Scale 1 Posts

KENT
COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
NORTH WEST KENT AREA
EXTENSIBLE SCHOOL
RECRUITMENT OFFICER

Drama required for January 1987, for the Spring term.

Enthusiasm is a prerequisite for all the opportunities offered to take curriculum initiatives and administrative responsibilities within an active team. Most teaching is mixed ability in a Faculty which extends beyond English into education, science, Curriculum Communication.

Flexible is in a rural area but is close to the M20 A2(M) and the M25.

(London Outer Fringe Allowance payable £284).

Letters of application (including CV) to:

**EAST KENT AREA
THE SIR WILLIAM
NOTTIDGE SCHOOL**
Bellvue Road, Whitstable CT5
1PX
Required for January 1987,
Drama/English teacher (Scale
1). Specialist Drama teacher,
also to teach English through-
out the age range. Drama op-
erates as a separate department
and has an excellent reputation
in the County. Teacher status.

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26

SPECIAL EDUCATION

HUMBERSIDE
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
EAST HUMBERSIDE
FETTON PASTURE SCHOOL
Fetton, Beverley HU17 7PL
Scale 14 S.A. (Scale 20)
Required for January 1987,
or as soon as possible thereafter,
a teacher to work with
children with moderate learning
difficulties in the 11-16 age range.
The post could be available to an
experienced teacher.
Initially the person
appointed would be working as
member of a team of three
teachers in the Upper School, 14-16 year olds.
Applicants should send their
CVs to the Headmaster, with
details of their experience in
the field of special education.
Application forms should be
returned by 24th November
1986. (34462) 160022

LANCASHIRE

BEECH TREE SCHOOL
(NORTH)
Meadow Lane, Bamber
Bridges, Nr. Preston, Lancs.
PR5 8LN
ASSISTANT TEACHER.
Scale 1.
£6,423 - £9,804 plus 28%
55A

At this school for 14
multi-handicapped children
with challenging behaviour.
Candidates should have
special education qualifications
or relevant experience.
Applicants will be
interviewed and given a
written test. Successful
education teachers will be
considered.
For application form and
further details, send
addressed envelope (A4
size) to Miss Nina Storr,
Head Teacher at the above
address. Closing date
31.11.86. (34536) 160022

LINCOLNSHIRE

ASSISTANT TEACHER
ST. BERNARD'S SCHOOL
Wood Lane, South Lincs
LN11 8RS
(Group 45 - Roll 55)
Assistant Teacher (scale
1 + 55A) required as soon
as possible for a school
for children with severe
learning difficulties to
take a class of children
from 13-14 years of age.
SAZ to Head for form
and details, closing date
28 November 1986.
(1797) (34553) 160022

MERTON

LONDON BOROUGH OF
MERTON
MERTON IS AN EQUAL
OPPORTUNITIES
EMPLOYMENT
SCHOOL
Barnes Road, Merton.
Surrey SM4 3JF
Tel: 01-648 9747
Head Teacher Mrs. J.
Barnes, 2-19 years
No. on roll: 80
A suitably qualified and
experienced teacher is required
to work in a team teaching
situation. In need of
this Group 51st School for
children with severe
learning difficulties, with
particular responsibility for
small group of active, profoundly
handicapped children.
Closing date 15th November
1986.
Application forms and
further particulars of the
school are available from the
Head Teacher at the above
address. Please enclose a
stamped addressed envelope
(34549) 160022

NORTH YORKSHIRE

Re-advertisement -
Previous applications need
not re-apply
TEACHERS
SPRINGWATER SCHOOL
Harrogate
Suitably qualified and
experienced, at this day
school for pupils with
very learning difficulties.
THE WHITE HORSE
Claydon Hospital,
Claydon, Norfolk
To work with groups of
multiply and profoundly
handicapped children
The above two posts are
required for January 1987
or as soon as possible
from the Head, Mr R. Butt,
Burnham Scale 1 (+55A).
Application forms and
further details, send
returnable 28th November
1986, to the Headmaster,
County Education Officer,
Room 408, County Hall,
Northallerton DL5 10QZ
(34510) 160022

OXFORDSHIRE

COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION
DEPARTMENT
REBBENAY PRIMARY
SCHOOL
Queensway, Banbury, Oxon
OX16 3NF
Teacher, part-time (0.5)
teacher of the deaf required
as soon as possible until July
1987 to work with children
of primary age in the centre
and in relation to children
where children are in-
cluded. Application forms available
from the Headteacher (SAZ
Please) to be returned as
soon as possible.
Equal Opportunity Employer. (34540) 160022

PERTSHIRE

RANNOCH SCHOOL
Please see advertisement in
Independent Section under
"English". (36958) 160022

SOMERSET
COUNTY COUNCIL
PHONE COLLEGE
From

11-19 mixed
comprehensive school and
further education centre to
be developed as a
community college. Now
14501

For January 1987, or as
soon as possible thereafter,
a teacher to work with
children with severe learning
difficulties. Expertise in
the field of special education
with special needs experience.
An interest in the applica-
tions of computer technol-
ogy to this field desirable.
Letters of application to the
Principal, enclosing an
envelope with post stamp and
enclosing a fee for job de-
scription.
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES
EMPLOYER. (34460) 160022

SURREY

COUNTY COUNCIL
WYVIL HIGH SCHOOL
Bramley, Guildford GU5 0NJ
Residential School for
pupils with Emotional and
Behavioural Difficulties.
Temporary one term appoint-
ment, Scale 14+55A for the
Spring Term 1987. For the
appointment of a permanent
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Mathematics, Science, History,
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a swimming pool and a
gymnasium. The school is
located in a beautiful setting
with a large playing field.
Application form and fur-
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Date: 28 November 1986
(34545) 160022

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APPOINTMENTS IN SCOTLAND



Thayside Regional Council

Primary
* **HEAD TEACHER**
ST. COLUMBA'S R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL, DUNDEE
(R.A. £1,823) (Roll - 197)

Secondary
DEPUTE RECTOR
MORGAN ACADEMY, DUNDEE
(R.A. £5,882)

* **PRINCIPAL TEACHER OF MUSIC**
LAWSIDE RC ACADEMY, DUNDEE
(R.A. £2,382)

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS
LINLATHEN HIGH SCHOOL, DUNDEE
(R.A. £1,371)

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL TEACHER OF MUSIC
PITLOCHRY HIGH SCHOOL
(R.A. £1,717)
(RE-ADVERTISEMENT)

TEACHER POST
INSTRUMENTAL TEACHER/INSTRUCTOR OF WOODWIND
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN DUNDEE

* Applicants for these posts must satisfy the Roman Catholic Church
Authorities as to their Religious belief and character.

Application forms for the above posts may be obtained from the
Director of Education, (Staffing Section), Floor 8, Thayside House, 28
Crichton Street, Dundee DD1 3JF to whom they should be returned not
later than Monday 1 December, 1986

Thayside Regional Council is an
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

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Borders College of Further Education
LECTURER 'A' -
MANAGEMENT STUDIES
£9,840 - £14,463

Applications are invited for the above post based in Hawick
from those qualified to degree level to teach general Manage-
ment subjects and one or more of the following Manage-
ment specialisms:-

Personnel/Industrial Relations
Marketing
Organisation Studies
Quantitative Methods

The successful applicant will be expected to teach on
courses up to Higher National Certificate level including
IIM and to assist with the development and teaching of
short courses.

Candidates must have relevant management experience
and preferably should have taught management subjects
though not necessarily in a formal educational setting.

This is a growth area in the College and the post offers
opportunities for career advancement for those with enthu-
siasm and initiative.

This is a re-advertisement and previous applicants need not
re-apply.

SECONDARY EDUCATION
TEACHING POST
TECHNICAL EDUCATION
EARLSTON HIGH SCHOOL, ROLL 598
Closing date 28 November 1986

Application forms may be obtained from the Personnel
Department, Regional Headquarters, Newtown St. James,
TD6 9SA. Completed forms should be returned to the
Director of Education at Regional Headquarters.

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IDE COUNTY COUNCIL

n Lindsey College of Technology

thorpe. S. Humberside DN17 1AJ

ary 1987 or as soon as possible thereafter.

II – Management & Union Studies

Graduates or be professionally qualified
experience. The person appointed will be
the development of both Management and
mmes of study, and contribute to the
ent and Business studies.

m F.E. £8595-£13,656

cations:

and application forms available from the
(A.E. please)

(148/5)

EDUCATION LIAISON OFFICER

Applicants should be graduates or hold appropriate qualifications and should be under 65 with five years' recent teaching experience. Examining experience is essential. Candidates' duties include setting questions, advising on the award of grades and may include the supervision of some of the examiners. For application form and further details write to The Secretary, University of London School Examinations Board, Stewart House (Room 215), 32 Russell Square, London WC1B 6DN. Applicants should enclose a self-addressed foolscap envelope. Completed application forms should be returned by 9 December 1986.

Collins · Publishers

Closing date 28th November, 1986.
All vacancies are open to all people irrespective of sex, race or disability.

Mr Heylin.

Ltd., Prebendal House, Parson's Road,
Bucks, HP20 2QZ.

WIMPEY
GROUP SERVICES

Secondment will be considered (minimum three years).

The post is commensurate with advice and support for primary and secondary aged children with learning difficulties.

experience. Examining experience is essential. Chief Examiner's duties include setting question papers, advising on the award of grades and may include the supervision of a team of examiners. For application form and further details write to The Secretary, University of London School Examinations Board, Steward House (Room 215), 32 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DN. Applicants should enclose a self-addressed foolscap envelope. Complete application forms should be returned by 2 December 1986.

**Application forms are available from: The
Secretary, Syndicate Buildings, 1 Hills
Road, Cambridge CB1 2EU**

Mr Heylin.

Ltd., Prebendal House, Parson's Road,
Bucks, HP20 2QZ.

LJ Associates
Euston House
81-109 Euston Street
London NW1 2ET.
Tel: 01-388 5465.

